

Copyrighted Material

# **Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu For Experts Only**

**Carlson  
Gracie**

with  
**Julio "Foca"  
Fernandez**



Copyrighted Material

Invisible Cities Press  
50 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
www.invisiblecitiespress.com

Copyright © 2004 by Carlson Gracie and Julio Fernandez

All rights reserved. This book, or any part thereof, may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Gracie, Carlson.  
Brazilian jiu-jitsu : for experts only / Carlson Gracie with Julio "Foca" Fernandez.  
p. cm.  
ISBN 1-931229-34-1 (alk. paper)  
1. Jiu-jitsu--Brazil. 2. Self-defense. I. Fernandez, Julio Foca. II. Title.  
GV1114.G72 2004  
796.815'2'0981--dc22

2004013495

Anyone practicing the techniques in this book does so at his or her own risk. The authors and the publisher assume no responsibility for the use or misuse of information contained in this book or for any injuries that may occur as a result of practicing the techniques contained herein. The illustrations and text are for informational purposes only. It is imperative to practice these holds and techniques under the strict supervision of a qualified instructor. Additionally, one should consult a physician before embarking on any demanding physical activity.

Printed in the United States of America

Book design by Peter Holm, Sterling Hill Productions  
Position photographs by John Goodman

# Contents

[Introduction / 1](#)

[Meet the Authors / 10](#)

## Sport Jiu-Jitsu Techniques

### Takedowns

[1 Back control when opponent sprawls / 16](#)

[2 Single-leg takedown 1 / 18](#)

[3 Single-leg takedown 2 / 20](#)

[4 Double-leg takedown / 22](#)

### Guard Work

[5 Passing the closed guard 1 / 24](#)

[6 Passing the closed guard 2 / 28](#)

[7 Passing the closed guard—advanced variation / 32](#)

[8 Passing the open guard to footlock / 36](#)

[9 Passing the open guard to side-control / 38](#)

[10 Passing the butterfly guard 1 / 40](#)

[11 Passing the butterfly guard 2 / 42](#)

[12 Spider Guard / 44](#)

[13 Jello guard / 46](#)

[14 Taking the back from the half-guard / 48](#)

### Sweeps and Reversals

[15 Closed-guard reversal / 50](#)

[16 Foot-on-biceps sweep / 54](#)

[17 Closed-guard reversal to top control / 58](#)

[18 Jello sweep from closed guard / 62](#)

[19 Reversal from the jello guard / 66](#)

[20 Sweep from the jello guard / 68](#)

[21 Omoplata sweep from the open guard / 70](#)

[22 Open-guard biceps-control reversal / 74](#)

### Chokes and Cranks

[23 Ezekiel choke from rear mount / 78](#)

[24 Choke from knee-on-belly / 80](#)

[25 Ezekiel choke from side-control position / 82](#)

[26 Choke when opponent tries to escape side-control / 84](#)

[27 Closed-guard lapel choke / 88](#)

- 28 Side-control lapel choke / 90
- 29 Sleeve choke from the butterfly guard / 94
- 30 Half-guard choke / 96

#### **Arm Bars and Ankle Locks**

- 31 Kimura from side-control / 98
- 32 Kimura from knee-on-stomach / 102
- 33 Closed-guard lapel arm bar / 106
- 34 Arm bar with shoulder control / 110
- 35 Side-control to arm bar 1 / 112
- 36 Side-control to arm bar 2 / 114
- 37 Ankle lock from the side / 116

### **Submission Grappling Techniques**

#### **Guard Work**

- 38 Passing the closed guard 3 / 120
- 39 Passing the closed guard 4 / 122
- 40 Heel hook from the closed guard / 126
- 41 Standing open guard to knee bar / 130
- 42 Standing open guard to heel hook / 132
- 43 Butterfly guard reversal to knee bar / 134
- 44 Triangle choke when opponent controls your hips / 138
- 45 Sweep and arm bar when opponent controls your hips / 142

#### **Escapes and Defenses**

- 46 Escape from the north-south hold / 146
- 47 Escape from leg control to single-leg takedown / 150
- 48 Defending the guillotine 1 / 154
- 49 Defending the guillotine 2 / 156

#### **Chokes and Cranks**

- 50 Neck crank from the mount / 160
- 51 Scissors neck crank from the Kimura / 162
- 52 Triangle choke from the mount / 166
- 53 Choke from side-control / 170
- 54 Passing the half-guard to a neck crank / 172
- 55 Neck crank from all fours / 176

### **Arm Bars and Wrist Locks**

- 56 Kimura from the mount / 178
- 57 Side-control "cow's hand" submission / 182
- 58 Side-control to knee-on-stomach to arm bar / 184
- 59 Arm bar from the back / 186
- 60 Arm bar from the closed guard / 190

## **No Holds Barred/Mixed Martial Arts Techniques**

### **Clinch**

- 61 Single-leg takedown from the clinch / 194
- 62 Double-leg takedown from the clinch / 198
- 63 Knee strike / 202
- 64 Knee-strike defense followed by uppercut / 204
- 65 Single-leg takedown and side-control from the clinch / 206
- 66 Takedown from the guillotine / 210

### **Takedown Defenses**

- 67 Kimura to defend a takedown / 214
- 68 Single-leg-takedown defense with mount / 218
- 69 Single-leg-takedown defense with knee bar / 222

### **Guard Work**

- 70 Punching from the closed guard / 226
- 71 Foot strike from the closed guard / 228
- 72 Heel strike from the closed guard / 230
- 73 Omoplata from the closed guard / 232
- 74 Triangle choke from the closed guard / 234
- 75 Kimura from the closed guard / 236
- 76 Punching inside the closed guard / 238

### **Side-Control and Knee-on-Stomach Moves**

- 77 Transitioning from the 100-kilo hold to side-control / 242
- 78 Striking after a side-control escape / 246
- 79 Punching from knee-on-stomach / 250
- 80 Kicking from knee-on-stomach / 252

# Introduction

**Y**ou hold in your hands the distillation of fifty years of fighting, thinking, teaching, and strategizing. With the exception of his ninety-year-old uncle Helio, no one on the planet has been working in the elite ranks of Brazilian jiu-jitsu longer than Carlson Gracie. Carlson was world champion before most of today's stars were born. He invented moves they do every day without knowing where they came from. He is truly one of the pillars on which today's thriving jiu-jitsu world is built.

Because of his experience, instincts, and famous good nature, Carlson has been a coveted teacher of jiu-jitsu for decades. Always his focus has been on his core students. When Carlson takes you under his wing, he devotes everything to making you the best fighter—and best person—you can be. This means he has ignored other aspects of his career to concentrate on his students. But now, Carlson has decided that the time has come to leave a more permanent record of his teachings, something that can reach more people than could ever train with him personally. The moves in this book are the ones Carlson feels every serious student of jiu-jitsu or grappling should know. And the book's unique combination of sport jiu-jitsu, submission grappling, and mixed martial arts moves makes it one every serious martial artist should have.



Carlson with two of his black belts: Carlos Henrique (left) and Jose Eduardo (right).



Carlson Gracie Jr. coaching his team at the 2002 Pan Ams in Florida.

The title of this book is "For Experts Only," but we'll let you in on a secret: It isn't really just for experts. That title is meant as a challenge. When Carlson teaches, he picks his students very carefully. He can't possibly teach all the people who want to train with him, so he looks for certain very special qualities in the students he chooses. Natural physical talent is important, of course, but so are an indomitable spirit, an intense sense of loyalty and commitment, and the refusal to back down from any challenge.

Some will see the title "For Experts Only" and turn away, looking for something easier. That's as it should be. Those looking for a shortcut, or for less than a total commitment, are not the ones Carlson is interested in teaching. Others will be encouraged by the title. Some because they know they possess the skill set necessary to be called "expert." And still others will take the title as a personal challenge. They realize they aren't experts yet, but they want to know everything an expert does. They are the type that is constantly striving to better themselves, constantly pushing themselves by tackling projects and challenges at the very edge of their abilities and experience.

These are the people Carlson loves to teach, because they are the ones that keep pushing themselves, even when they are experts, and later turn into champions. If you have gotten past the title of this book—if you are reading these words now—then you have passed the first test. You are one of those with the spirit this book was intended for, and you just may have a champion lurking within you.

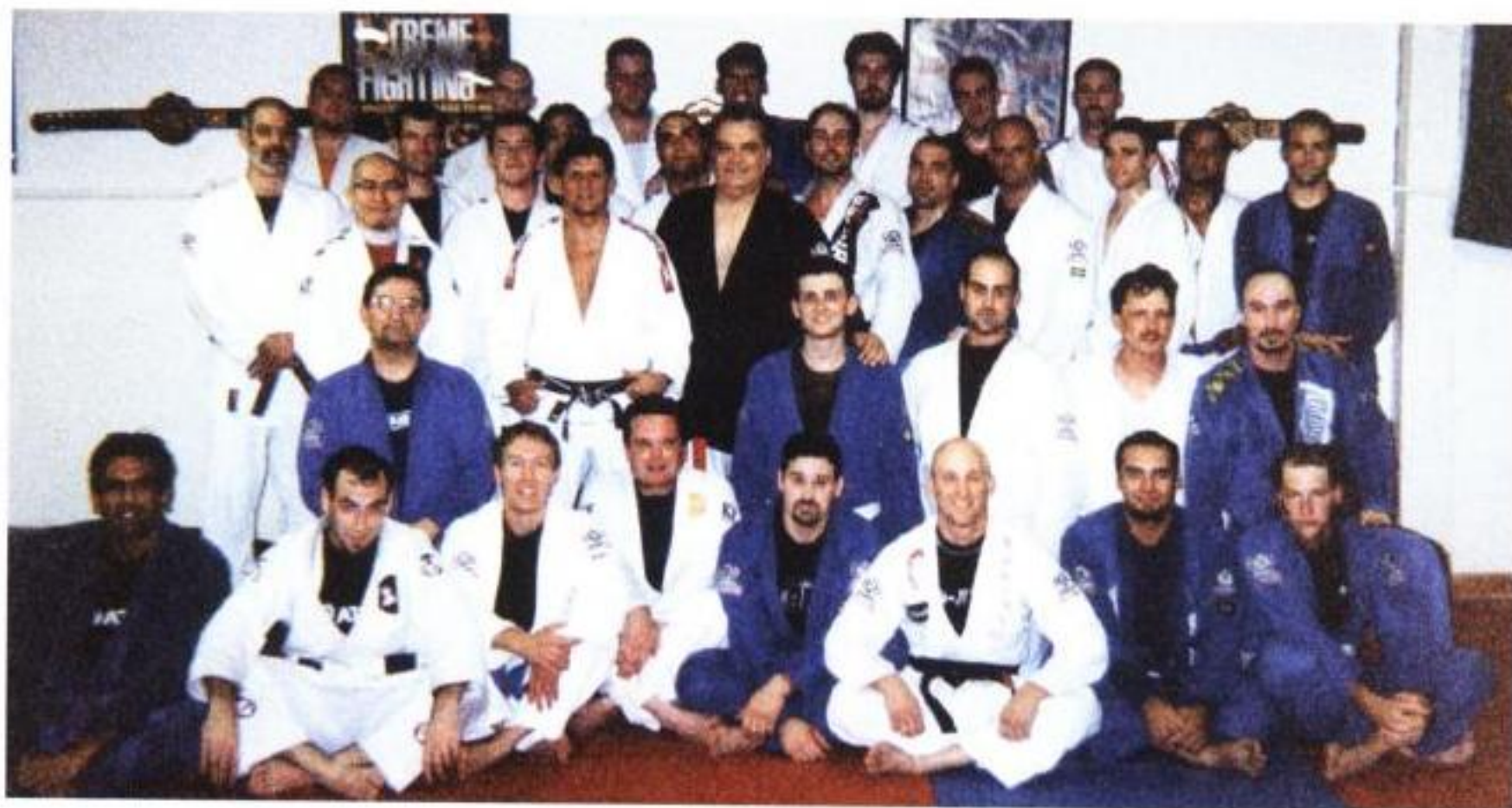
One thing Carlson has learned from many years of training is that it is best to teach without using too many words. Words can be misinterpreted. Words distract from the physical truth you learn on the mat. Grappling champions know that it is less important for their minds to learn a move than it is for their bodies to internalize a move at a visceral level. That's because you can't react fast enough to your opponent if you have to rely on your mind to think through a move and then tell your body what to do. Your body has to do it on its own.

That's why in this book, we let the pictures do the talking. For this reason, we've included more photos per move than you'll find in any other jiu-jitsu book. We think you'll find that this combination makes *For Experts Only* easier to follow than any book of its kind. Pay attention to the photos and you can't go wrong.

About the only other thing you need to know to get the most out of this book is that you need to practice these moves again and again until they are lodged in your muscle memory. As we said, it's more important for your muscles to learn a move than for your brain to learn it. And the only way to make this happen is to practice, again and again, until the move—and recognition of the situations that trigger it—are instinctual reflexes.

So practice often and practice hard. But never leave it all on the mat. Carlson tends to choose students who drive themselves very hard, and one thing many of them have in common is a tendency to push themselves to exhaustion. Not a good idea. You don't want to be flat when the big fight comes. As you train more and get more matches under your belt, you'll start to recognize the successful patterns of training. Work hard enough to be sharp but not exhausted; time yourself so that you peak at the event, not a week before. Then, after an event, allow your training regimen to lighten up so that you can regain strength before you start gearing up for the next match.

The Carlson Gracie Seminar in Vermont.



Sound simple? It is—in theory, anyway! If you are dedicated and focused, and you don't let ego get in the way, becoming an expert in jiu-jitsu, submission grappling, or no-holds-barred fighting can be simpler than you think. We hope *For Experts Only* becomes an invaluable tool in helping you reach your goals.

### The Three Styles

Brazilian jiu-jitsu started some eighty years ago when Grandmaster Carlos Gracie learned traditional jiu-jitsu from Mitsue Maeda, a Japanese jiu-jitsu champion living in Brazil. Carlos learned under Maeda for four years and then they separated. Carlos taught his brothers the art and the family continued to develop it. Because of the lack of contact with other instructors, and because the Gracies were men of small stature, the jiu-jitsu practiced by Carlos and his brothers slowly evolved into a completely distinct art form, known today as Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu can be divided into three styles: self-defense techniques, sport techniques, and vale-tudo or no-holds-barred (NHB) techniques.

The self-defense techniques are moves designed to deal with unexpected aggression in real life, such as a fist fight, bear hug, headlock, or

From left to right: Carlos Antonio Rosado (the only red belt ranked under master Carlson Gracie), Sergio Buffara, and their wives.





even dangerous situations like a knife or gun attack, although the danger of having to fight an armed attacker makes this a last-resort option. Many martial arts have their own self-defense curriculum, however, the Brazilian jiu-jitsu techniques, like the rest of the art, were developed and honed in real situations. For many years the Gracies tested their techniques against unwilling partners, both on the streets of Rio and in many well-documented no-rules challenge matches. That, along with the fact that the Gracies were small-statured people, means that Brazilian jiu-jitsu techniques are especially efficient and work well for everyone, regardless of power or strength, making Brazilian jiu-jitsu the ideal self-defense for smaller, older, or less physical people.

The sport side of Brazilian jiu-jitsu has been developing for several decades as well. The sport game emphasizes technical skills, with points awarded for advantageous fighting positions such as reversals, side-control, the mounted position, taking the back, and knee-on-stomach, in addition, of course, to the most decisive way to win—by submission. With more than a hundred thousand practitioners throughout the world today, Brazilian jiu-jitsu now offers a dizzying number of local, regional, national, and international tournaments for practitioners to test their skills. In addition to the World Championship, now in its ninth year, the

Carlson Gracie and his Arrebentação Sports Team sponsors, Ilidio (left) and Julio (right).

Pan-American Championship (tenth year), the Pan-Pacific Championship (third year) and the European Championship (second year), national tournaments are held in such places as Brazil, the United States, Australia, Japan, and Europe. The Carlson Gracie Team has always been a leader in these events, led by the likes of Rosado, Pinduka, Peixotinho, Rosenthal, Cassio Cardoso, Mario Cupertino, Julio "Foca" Fernandez, Marcelo Bustamante, Mauricio Bustamante, Clovis, Buchaul, Carlinhos "Baganinha," Crezio, Caique, Ze Eduardo, and others. Beginning many years back when the Gracie academies dominated the competition in Brazil, the Carlson Gracie Team would rule the Gracie trials, the matches to select the team that would represent the Gracie academies in the open competitions. As the sport evolved and regional and national tournaments began, the Carlson Gracie Arrebentação Team always collected more than its share of gold, with names like De La Riva, Bitteti, Ismael, Medeiros, Goes, Belfort, Sperry, Liborio, and Bustamante leading the charge.

Carlson Gracie with his friend Gladys (left) and his sister Sonja (right).

The third part of Brazilian jiu-jitsu is the vale-tudo or NHB part. No martial art can maintain its claim as a real-life fighting art without being able to prove its efficiency in the field of NHB. No-holds-barred matches have



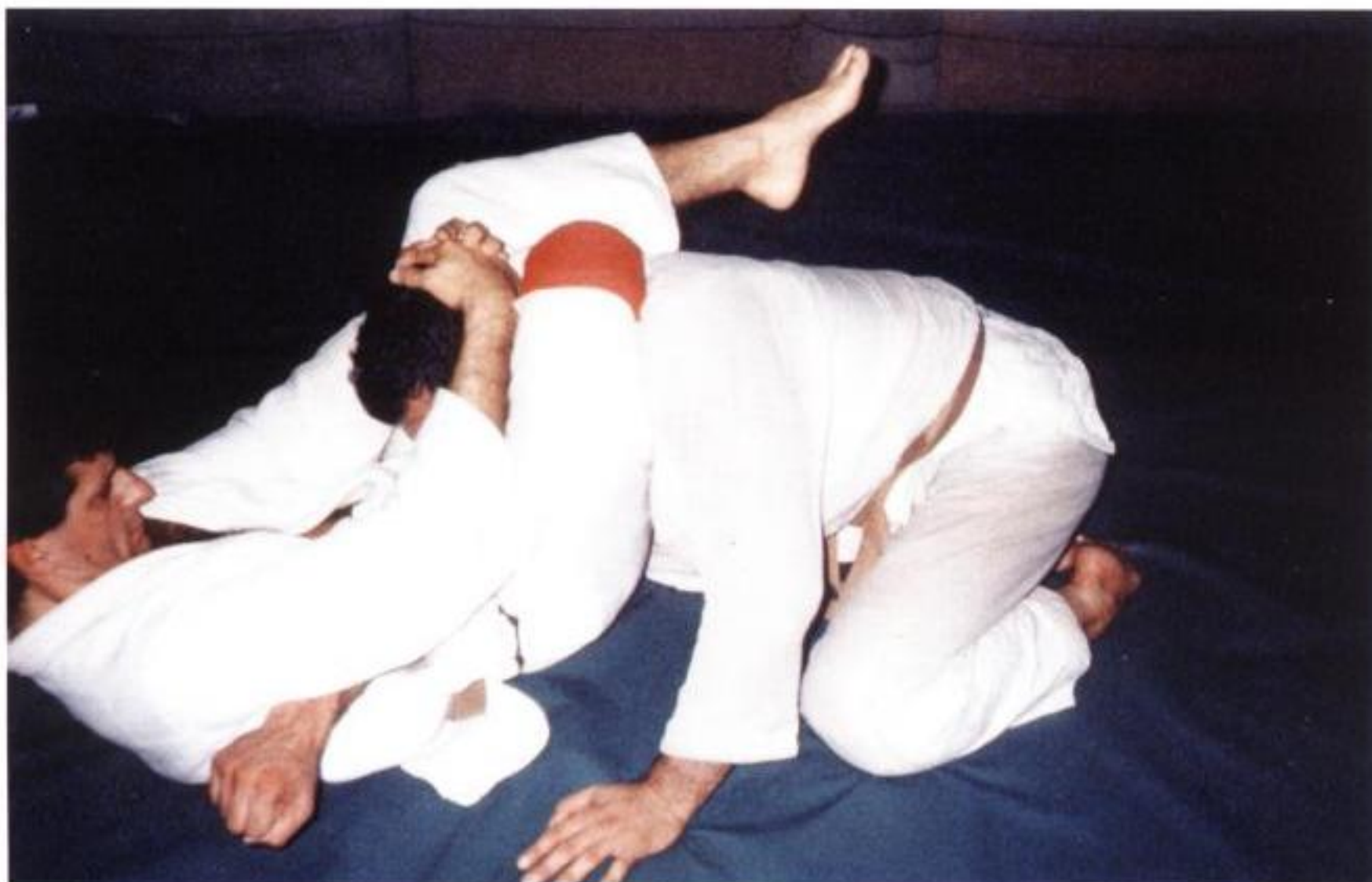
been the proving grounds for Brazilian jiu-jitsu for decades. Today, the NHB arena has spread worldwide, with the planet's top fighters competing in events including the Ultimate Fighting Championship and Pride to prove who is the best. Although they always maintain some of the characteristics of their original style, today's NHB fighters need to know Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Again, in this most arduous and unforgiving arena, Carlson and his team of warriors have demonstrated their skill and leadership. Beginning with Carlson himself in the 1950s and followed by Wallid Ismael, Alan Goes, Vitor Belfort, Jose Mario Sperry, Carlos Barreto, Ricardo Liborio, and Murilo Bustamante, the Carlson Gracie name is stamped clearly and soundly in rings around the world.

In this book, Grandmaster Carlson Gracie showcases some of his favorite techniques for jiu-jitsu, submission grappling, and MMA combat.

In the jiu-jitsu section, Carlson demonstrates the techniques that work best in sport competition. Sport jiu-jitsu involves wearing a gi, which allows you a great deal of control over your opponent. Because of the gi, sport jiu-jitsu develops and finesse your techniques, especially your posture, balance, defense, and attacking techniques. The gi leads to a great number of submissions using the collar and a large number of sweeps and

Carlson's own "Heroes" tournament in Rio de Janeiro.





Julio training with Braúlio Carsalade in Carlson's Rio de Janeiro school, circa 1982.

reversals using the sleeves and gi pants. Most Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournaments follow rules and scoring set by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation and do not allow strikes of any sort.

Submission grappling is the melting pot of many styles, a testing grounds to compare the effectiveness of each grappling style without the traumas of strikes. In submission grappling competitors do not use the gi, making for a faster match. With no collar to choke, submission grappling has fewer options for submission by chokes, but for the same reason, the lack of a gi to help defend also makes for a larger variety of leglocks and footlocks. Although submission grappling has been around for years, only recently has the sport taken a spotlight in the world, with many circuits both nationally and internationally.

MMA, or mixed martial arts, is the combination of all styles. Competitors here can use almost any kind of attack and submission, from chokes and armlocks to kicks and punches. MMA fighters need to be well versed in both grappling and striking arts. Today's typical MMA fighter has a background in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, wrestling, and muay-thai or boxing. MMA has seen an explosion in popularity in recent years, with

large international events showcased on Pay-Per-View television. Because MMA allows for strikes, many of the techniques that work for sport jiu-jitsu and submission grappling have to be modified for MMA combat to allow protection from strikes or the ability to strike.

## Meet the Authors

### Carlson

Carlson Gracie is the man who ushered Brazilian jiu-jitsu into the modern era. The oldest son of Carlos Gracie—who founded Brazilian jiu-jitsu in Rio de Janeiro in the 1920s—Carlson reigned as world champion for thirty years in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. He was never defeated in nineteen professional fights. During this time, he was also considered one of the pre-eminent teachers of Brazilian jiu-jitsu in the world—a reputation he holds to this day.

Carlson catapulted to fame at the tender age of seventeen when he avenged the defeat of his uncle Helio. A former student of Helio's, Waldemar Santana, had defeated the much older Helio in a match in 1955. That match lasted four hours and is still the longest in modern history. Carlson's match with Santana in 1956 was a much shorter affair: four rounds of vicious vale-tudo combat left Santana bloodied, beaten, and unable to crawl back into the ring.

Riding on his newfound fame, Carlson became the most sought-after jiu-jitsu instructor in Brazil. After teaching at his uncle's academy for several years, he opened his own, where over the past thirty years many of the greatest names in jiu-jitsu and no-holds-barred fighting have trained as members of the famed Carlson Gracie Arrebentação Team.

Born under the sign of Leo, Carlson's success in the ring and the academy owes something to the fearless and tenacious leadership qualities of that sign. Brazilian jiu-jitsu's conquest of the mixed martial arts world might not have happened without Carlson's lion-hearted decision to teach everything he knew at his academy. At the time, Helio's academy taught only the most basic positions to outsiders, reserving the advanced positions for the family elite. Carlson opened up Brazilian jiu-jitsu to the masses, and the masses responded, hungry to learn everything they could. To compete for students, the other academy was forced to offer all their positions as well. This good-natured competition breathed creativity and invention into Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and the sport has never been the same since.

Carlson's influence on no-holds-barred fighting is extensive as well, for the style of jiu-jitsu he taught at his academy was distinct from that being taught by Helio. While Helio's brand of jiu-jitsu emphasized technical proficiency, Carlson favored a "warrior style" of jiu-jitsu that encouraged



physical prowess and barraging your opponent with a series of attacks. Watch any Pride or UFC event today and you can see Carlson's influence.

A big-hearted man who embraces life with a wide smile, an inquisitive mind, and a deep spirit, Carlson Gracie considers his proudest achievement to be the scores of students that he has instilled with his love for the sport that changed his life. Carlson now lives in Chicago, where he continues to train the next generation of champions. He can be reached at: [www.carlsongracieopen.com](http://www.carlsongracieopen.com).



Carlson and his children.



Carlson is always present at all major tournaments.

## Julio

Julio "Foca" Fernandez was born in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Julio started training in judo when he was six years old. At age seventeen he started training in jiu-jitsu with Carlson Gracie. He has been training under Carlson for thirty years and is a fourth-degree black belt, logging more than two hundred matches as a member of the world famous Carlson Gracie Team, where he fought alongside many of the greatest names in jiu-jitsu and competed in all significant jiu-jitsu tournaments in Brazil in the 1980s. Among other awards, Julio is a five-time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Feather Weight Champion, two-time Minas Gerais / Rio de Janeiro Challenge Champion, and three-time Rio de Janeiro State Champion.

In addition to his jiu-jitsu prowess, Julio was a world-class surfer. He was twice Rio de Janeiro State Champion and three-time Brazilian College Champion, as well as being a member of the Company Surf Competition Team and Brazilian Nuts Surf Competition Team.

Julio's surfing career ended with his move to Vermont in the 1990s. But his career as a top-notch Brazilian jiu-jitsu teacher was just beginning. Along with the Gracies, he became one of the pioneers in the movement to bring Brazilian jiu-jitsu to America, and his Burlington, Vermont, academy has produced many champions in sport jiu-jitsu, freestyle jiu-jitsu, and NHB. As president of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu United States Association (BJJUSA), Julio is committed to seeing that his students learn properly and completely the art of Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He teaches with great affection, does not criticize, and helps his students to feel inspired.

Julio sparring with his friend  
Rodrigo Medeiros.





Among many other accomplishments, Julio's team has won multiple New England Open Grappling Championships, NAGA Championships, and Pan-American Championships.

The cofounder of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Revolution Team with his friend Rodrigo Medeiros, another black belt member of Carlson's elite team, Julio continues to train students at his Vermont academy and enter his team in elite events and competitions. For information about associated schools and where to best learn the art of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, visit the websites [www.bjjusa.com](http://www.bjjusa.com) and [www.bjjrevolutionteam.com](http://www.bjjrevolutionteam.com).

Surfing in the Saquarema Beach finals, 1975.







## **Sport Jiu-Jitsu Techniques**

**Takedowns**

**Guard Work**

**Sweeps and Reversals**

**Chokes and Cranks**

**Arm Bars and Ankle Locks**

# 1 Back control when opponent sprawls

Here is a great counter when you fail a double-leg takedown attempt and the opponent sprawls on your back. The key is to react fast to prevent the opponent from spinning around behind you and gaining a good attacking position.

1



As Carlson tries a double-leg takedown, Julio sprawls to avoid it.

2



Carlson establishes a tripod base and holds Julio's leg.

3

Carlson escapes the hold in one quick motion.



4



Carlson switches direction and goes for back control.

5

Carlson establishes back control.



## 2 Single-leg takedown 1

A popular sport jiu-jitsu takedown is the single-leg takedown with the head to the outside, which has a wide variety of versions. The one shown here is particularly appropriate for sport jiu-jitsu competitions. Don't forget to lower your body and keep your elbows close to your body as you bring the opponent down and around in a semicircular rotation move. Another good option after controlling the opponent's leg is the "ouchi gari," in which you step your right foot between your opponent's legs to trap his left heel and drive your weight into him to take him down.

1



Julio holds Eric's left collar and left sleeve.

2



Julio lowers his body and reaches inside Eric's left leg.

3



Julio locks his hands together, at the same time controlling Eric's right hip.

4



Julio keeps the hold while bringing Eric's leg off the ground.

5



With a small step to his right and a large step to his left, Julio circles around Eric.

6

Using the hold combined with the pressure on top of the leg, Julio takes Eric down.



7

After the takedown is complete, Julio establishes side-control.



### 3 Single-leg takedown 2

A single-leg takedown can also be launched with your head to the inside. This attack can work well when your opponent is circling you. Step your lead leg just outside the opponent's lead leg and drop to your knees as you penetrate to hold his lead knee. Grab him at the heel with your rear hand, then push forward with your head firmly against his hips and pull with the hand on his heel to take him down.



Julio and Eric are trying to control each other's gi.



Julio pulls Eric's left sleeve and slides his left elbow under Eric's right arm at the same time.

Julio releases Eric's sleeve and quickly controls Eric's leg to prevent him from stepping back.



4



From this angle we can see Julio holding Eric's left knee.

5



Julio executes the takedown, lowering his body and pulling Eric to the mat.

6

After the takedown is complete, Julio drops his weight against Eric's side.



Julio establishes side-control.

7



## 4 Double-leg takedown

The double-leg takedown is one of the most commonly used methods to take down an opponent in mixed martial arts. In sport jiu-jitsu the use of the gi permits control of your opponent's body and allows for quick and efficient double-leg takedowns.



Eric controls Julio's gi, both arms on Julio's lapel at chest height.



Julio changes his grip and grabs Eric's lapel underneath his arms.



In one quick motion, Julio lowers his body and pulls Eric forward.

4



As he lowers his body, Julio is already preparing the takedown.

5



Julio controls Eric's hips and keeps his head up to avoid the sprawl and the guillotine.

6



Julio maintains control of Eric's legs throughout the takedown.

7



Julio establishes side-control after the double-leg takedown.

## 5 Passing the closed guard 1

The standing guard pass is a good option. By standing, you can avoid a host of closed guard submissions and sweeps. Be sure to maintain a good base and stance against a player with good sweeps and submissions like the triangle choke. The standing guard pass presented here is among the safer ways to open and pass the closed guard.



Eric controls Julio inside his closed guard.



Julio stands up, controlling Eric's sleeve to avoid an arm bar or choke.

To maintain his balance, Julio keeps his back straight and his body erect.



4



Julio switches his hand grip on Eric's sleeve.

5



Julio maintains his posture and slides his wrist behind Eric's leg.

6

After the closed guard is open, Julio maintains his hold on Eric's pants and keeps his right elbow between Eric's legs to avoid a triangle choke.



7



Julio releases his grip on Eric's sleeve and slides his left arm between Eric's legs.

8



With both arms around Eric's hips and left arm, Julio controls the position.

9



With his weight directed downward, Julio reaches deep inside Eric's lapel.

10



Julio's right arm controls Eric's pants to prevent Eric from rolling out of the hold.

11



Julio lowers his body to pass the guard.

12



Julio passes the guard and takes side-control.

## 6 Passing the closed guard 2

For those who do like to pass the guard standing up, the standing guard pass presented here is one more great option. After the guard is open, shoot your knee over your opponent's leg and control his upper body. This is a very stable, safe, and strong way to pass the closed guard.

1



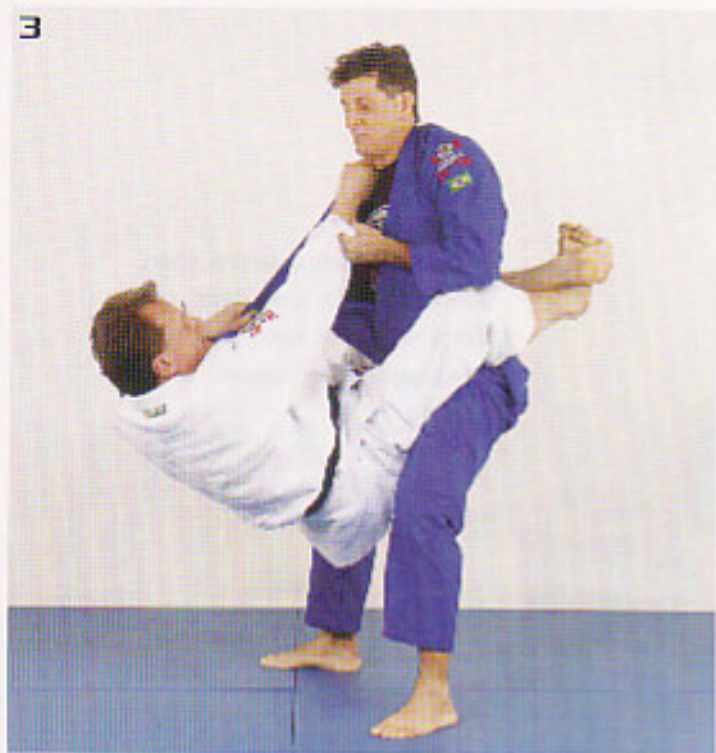
Eric controls Julio inside his closed guard.

2

Julio stands-up, controlling Eric's sleeve to avoid an arm bar or choke.



3



To maintain his balance, Julio keeps his back straight and his body erect.

4



Julio gets good grip control on Eric's pants at his left knee.

5



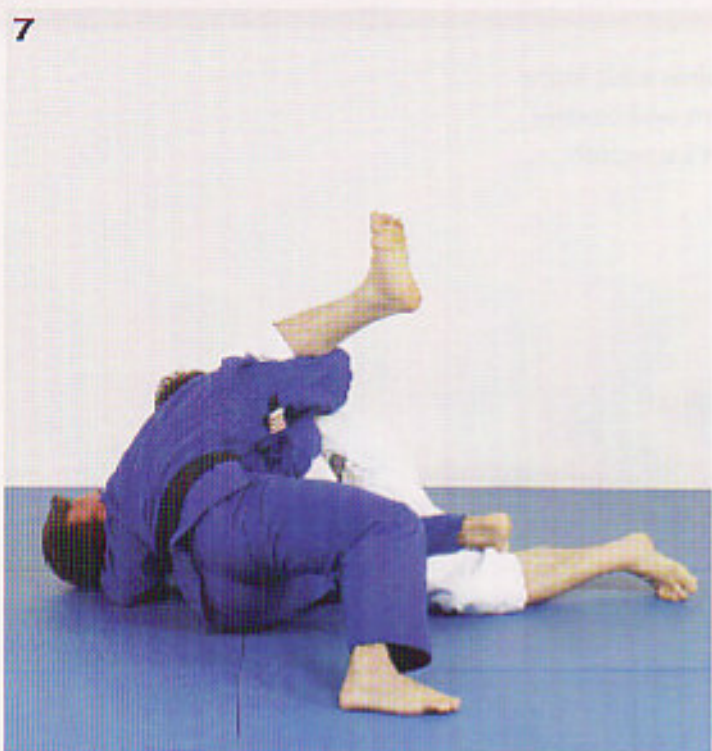
After the closed guard is open, Julio lowers his knee over Eric's leg so Eric can't replace the guard or half-guard.

6

Julio holds Eric's head and starts to pass the guard.



7



Julio controls both Eric's legs to establish his position passing the guard.

8

Julio passes the guard and takes side-control.



## 7 Passing the closed guard—advanced variation

This option for passing the closed guard requires a bit more coordination in order to surprise the opponent and control his arm from the start. If you can pull it off, it's a superb addition to your arsenal.

1



Eric controls Julio inside his closed guard.

2



Julio moves his right hand to hold Eric's gi lapel.

3



Julio lifts his right leg and passes Eric's gi lapel over Eric's arm.

4



Standing on his legs, Julio passes the lapel under Eric's body.

5



Julio secures the hold to maintain his position.

6



Julio holds Eric's lapel on the other side to avoid an omoplata or shoulder sweep.

7



Julio releases his grip on Eric's lapel and holds Eric's pants to open the guard.

8



Julio opens the guard and controls Eric's leg.

9



Julio holds Eric's head and starts to pass the guard.

10



Julio passes the guard and takes side-control.

## 8 Passing the open guard to footlock

Many times when you are passing the guard standing, your opponent, on the defensive and attempting a reversal or a submission, plays the open guard with a foot-on-biceps. Here, Julio demonstrates a nice, quick way to pass the open guard at the same time that he prevents an escape and sets up a figure-four footlock.



Eric controls Julio in his spider guard while Julio holds Eric's pants.



Quickly moving forward using his hips, Julio releases Eric's foot from biceps control.

Julio passes to the side and uses his gi lapel to control Eric's left leg.



4



Julio holds Eric to keep him from rolling out of the hold.

5



Since Eric could not roll out of the hold, he moves in Julio's direction to try to replace his guard.

6



Julio catches Eric's left foot while Eric is trying to replace the guard.

7



Julio finishes the figure-four footlock by putting his weight over Eric's body.

## 9 Passing the open guard to side-control

Learning to deal with the open guard position is a major part of training in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Here, Carlson shows that the best strategy is to get around your opponent's legs to a better position, such as the side-control, where you can control your opponent and wait for submission opportunities to arise.



Eric controls Carlson's sleeves in his spider guard.

Carlson steps back, controls Eric's pants, and pushes Eric's right leg to the mat.



3



Carlson circles around Eric's body to avoid leg hooks.

4



Carlson pushes Eric's legs away from his body and drops his shoulder for additional control.

5



Carlson establishes side-control after passing the guard.

## 10 Passing the butterfly guard 1

The butterfly guard is a common and effective guard in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. With the hooks inside, your opponent has many options for sweeps and chokes. Ideally, the butterfly guard is performed sitting up. Here, Julio pushes Eric's head to be able to reach and control the hooks placed between his legs. As soon as that happens, Julio does not wait for Eric to sit up; instead, he uses the control on Eric's pants to perform the guard pass.



Eric controls Julio in his butterfly guard.



Julio pushes Eric's head, sliding his right arm behind Eric's knee at the same time.

Julio controls Eric's right leg by holding Eric's pants.



4



While maintaining the leg hold, Julio wraps his left arm around Eric's head.

5



Julio shifts his weight to pass the guard and get side-control.

6

Julio completes the hold and maintains side-control.



## 11 Passing the butterfly guard 2

This is another option that could be used when passing the butterfly guard. Here, Julio decides to stand up. By standing up, he avoids a host of sweeps, chokes, and reversals. The standing guard pass presented here is easy to perform and is among the safer ways to pass the butterfly guard.

1



Eric controls Julio in his butterfly guard.

2

Julio stands on his left leg and quickly slides his left hand behind Eric's right leg.



3



In a quick motion, Julio grabs Eric's pants and circles to his left side.

4



Julio drops his shoulder against Eric's chest, lifting Eric's legs.

5

Julio releases the hold to establish side-control.



## 12 Spider Guard

One very interesting variation on the open guard is the spider guard. It involves placing one or both feet on your opponent's biceps. Usually you also grab the wrist or sleeve of his arm as well. The spider guard gives you great control over your opponent's arms, and this control sets up many submission holds and sweeps.



Carlson controls Julio in his closed guard.



Carlson opens his guard and controls Julio's arms and sleeves.

Julio stands up to pass the guard and Carlson switches to foot-on-biceps control.



4



Carlson wraps his right foot around Julio's arm to gain additional control.

5



Carlson controls both Julio's arms with his legs in the spider guard.

## 13 Jello guard

Another variation of the open guard is the jello guard, named for the ability it gives you to control your opponent and shake him around. A great offensive tool for the man on the bottom, the jello guard is very useful in tournament jiu-jitsu. Jello-guard control sets up many submission holds (especially the triangle choke), knee bars, and sweeps.



Carlson controls Julio inside his closed guard.

Julio stands up to try to pass the guard.



3



Carlson opens his guard and controls Julio's foot, hips, and collar.

4



Without releasing the position, Carlson brings his left leg around Julio's right leg.

5



Carlson establishes control in the jello guard.

## 14 Taking the back from the half-guard

In sport jiu-jitsu, the rear mount can help you win tournaments. It is a dominating position from which you can control your opponent, attack his neck with chokes, and submit him with little fear of retaliation. Getting there is the problem, because your opponent certainly won't easily let you. Here Julio demonstrates the transition from the half-guard (a more defensive position) to the rear mount.



Julio pushes Eric's knee inside his half-guard.



Julio keeps moving his body sideways to avoid Eric's half-guard.

In one quick move, Julio swings his left leg over and behind Eric's body.





Julio maintains control of Eric's knee and left foot to prevent Eric from standing up.



While inserting his hook, Julio controls Eric's gi underneath the armpit.

After both hooks are in place, Julio stretches his body for additional control.



## 15 Closed-guard reversal

The problem of controlling an opponent who stands in your closed guard is a difficult one. A particularly effective means of coping with the problem is the closed-guard omoplata reversal. It provides a very effective means of bringing your opponent down to the ground, from where you can take a top position and gain control of the fight.

1



Carlson controls Julio inside his closed guard.

2



Julio stands up to try to pass the guard.

3



Carlson uses a double-grip in one sleeve on Julio's right arm.

4



Carlson passes his left arm behind Julio's right leg.

5



Carlson controls Julio's arm and leg with the double-grip.

6



Carlson opens his guard.

7

Carlson passes his left leg over Julio's shoulder.



8



Carlson executes the reversal and establishes top position.

9



We can see the reversal from this different angle.

## 16 Foot-on-biceps sweep

For each sweeping technique there is a different "feel." The foot-on-biceps sweep can be completed with power and exertion, but when well done with perfect timing and coordination, there is an aura of complete effortlessness in its operation. Such is the nature of the foot-on-biceps sweep.



Carlson controls Julio in his closed guard.



Julio stands up to pass the closed guard.

3



Carlson switches to a collar hold with his right hand.

4



Carlson opens his guard, keeping the collar hold to prevent Julio from stepping back.

5

After bringing his legs to Julio's hips, Carlson holds on to both of Julio's sleeves.



6



Carlson places his right foot on Julio's biceps.

7



Carlson holds Julio's pants.

8



Carlson executes the foot-on-biceps sweep.

9



Carlson maintains control of Julio's leg as he finishes the sweep.

10

Carlson now controls Julio from the top position.



## 17 Closed-guard reversal to top control

There are many variations of the closed-guard reversal. One very interesting form involves opening your guard and rolling over your shoulder to perform the reversal and gain the top position. This great move can be very effective if performed quickly.

1



Carlson controls Julio inside his closed guard.

2



Julio stands up to pass the closed guard.

3



Carlson releases Julio's right sleeve.

4



Carlson passes his hand around Julio's right leg.

5



Carlson opens his guard in one fast movement.

6



Carlson rolls over his own back.

7

Without releasing Julio's leg, Carlson prepares the reversal.



8



After Julio falls, Carlson starts to stand up.

9



Carlson stands up, still controlling Julio's leg after the reversal.

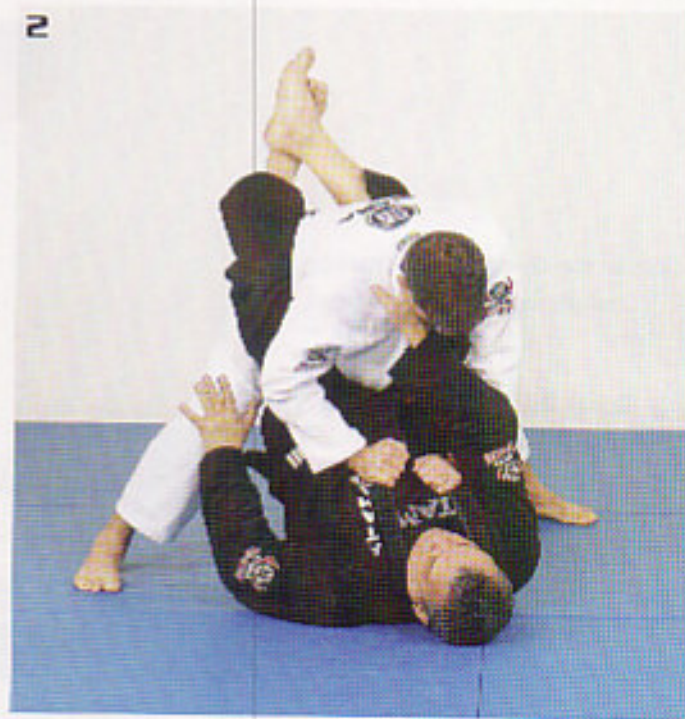
## 18 Jello sweep from closed guard

This fantastic sweep was developed by Carlson in the 1980s at his Rio de Janeiro school. It involves the use of your arms and legs at the same time to perform the sweep. Here Carlson demonstrates one of many ways to perform the sweep. Whatever version used, often the result is that you end up in the mounted position.



Carlson controls Julio's sleeve and collar in the closed guard.

Carlson gains space to open his guard.



3



Carlson brings his feet onto Julio's hips.

4



Carlson holds  
Julio's right ankle.

Without releasing Julio's ankle, Carlson  
wraps his leg around Julio's leg.

5



6



Carlson releases Julio's collar.

7



Carlson grabs Julio's left sleeve.

8



Carlson controls Julio's sleeve and places his foot on Julio's hips.

9



Carlson starts to push Julio's left knee.

10

Julio loses his balance and Carlson executes the jello sweep.



11

Carlson maintains control on Julio's ankle until he gains the mount position.



## 19 Reversal from the jello guard

This reversal is easy to apply from the jello guard. Be sure to keep your body against your opponent's hips and your head forward for additional leverage.

1



Carlson controls Julio in the jello guard.

2

Carlson releases his grip on Julio's foot and starts to sit up.



3



Carlson passes his right hand around Julio's leg and his left leg hooks Julio's ankle.

4

In one motion, Carlson shifts his body weight against Julio's right leg to take him down.



## 20 Sweep from the jello guard

This is another good example of one of the several reversals and sweeps available when using the jello guard. With this great move, often you end up in the mounted position. It also provides a very effective means of bringing your opponent down to the ground, from where you can take a top position and gain control of the fight.

1



Carlson controls Julio in the jello guard.

2

Here we see the same position from a different angle.



3

Without releasing his hold, Carlson switches his foot on Julio's hips.



4



Carlson drops his left leg  
between Julio's legs.

5



Carlson uses his left leg to  
hook and control Julio's leg.

6



Carlson executes the sweep.

7



After the sweep, Carlson  
establishes top position.

## 21 Omoplata sweep from the open guard

This reversal is particularly effective when an opponent stands up in your closed guard. Should the reversal fail because the opponent posts his right arm on the ground to prevent it, a knee bar or even a heel hook are two excellent follow-up options.



Carlson controls Julio in his open guard.

Carlson pushes Julio, using the foot he has on Julio's hips.



3



Carlson places his right foot on Julio's left hip at the same time that he moves his whole body sideways.

4



Carlson drops his left leg between Julio's legs.

5



Carlson moves his left leg over Julio's right leg.

6



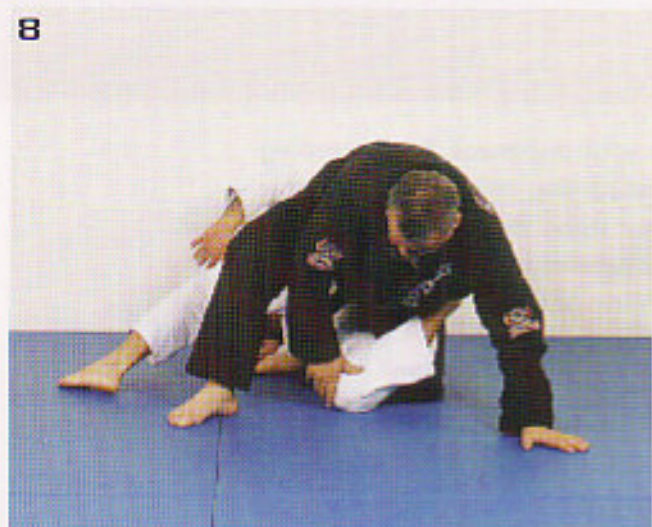
Without releasing the collar,  
Carlson controls Julio's leg

7

After completing the move, Carlson  
starts to roll over his own body.



8



Carlson completes the reversal.

9

Carlson passes his right leg over Julio's body.



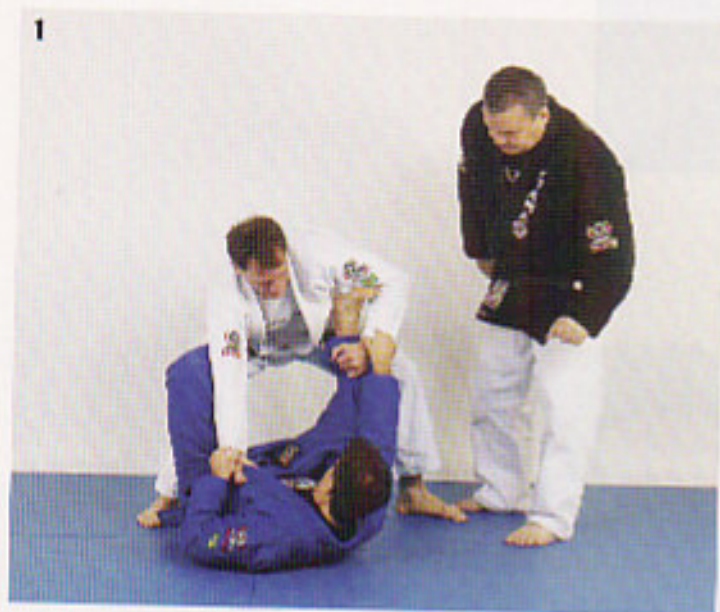
10

Carlson completes the move and takes side-control.



## 22 Open-guard biceps-control reversal

The spider guard presents all sorts of problems for your opponent. By controlling his arms, you make offensive moves, whether guard passing or leg locks, extremely difficult for him. At the same time, control over your opponent's arms sets up many submission holds, sweeps, and reversal opportunities for you. Here we see one reversal that is set and completed through the use of the spider guard.

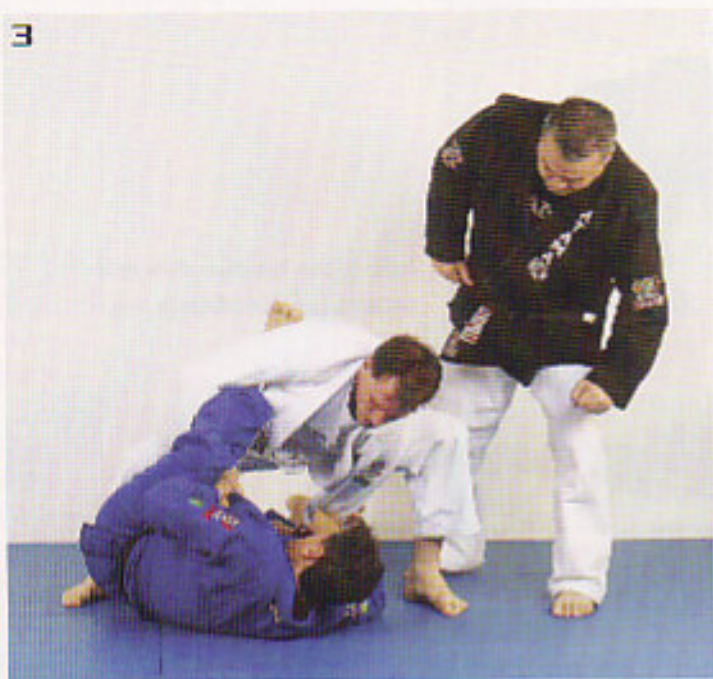


Julio has Eric in his spider guard.



Julio switches his legs and places his left foot around Eric's biceps.

3



Eric pushes Julio's right leg down in an attempt to pass the guard.

4



Julio slides his right leg all the way behind Eric's leg.

5



Julio grabs his own shin and secures control of Eric's leg.

6



In two motions (first forward and then sideways), Julio applies the reversal.

7



Julio scores the points and completes the reversal.

8



Julio pushes Eric's right leg down and establishes side-control with holds.

## 23 Ezekiel choke from rear mount

In sport jiu-jitsu, having control of someone's back is perhaps the best position to find yourself in. Your options for attack are wide open. Here, Julio tries to open his coat to defend a lapel choke, but Carlson decides to use his own coat sleeve to perform a variation of the "mata leao" choke called the Ezekiel choke.



Carlson controls from the bottom-rear mount position.



Carlson switches his control to Julio's neck and shoulder.

Julio tries to defend the choke but Carlson grabs his own sleeve for support.



4



Carlson passes his hand behind Julio's neck.

5



Carlson adjusts the choke.

6



Carlson finishes the choke.

## 24 Choke from knee-on-belly

When you have obtained a dominant position, such as the side-hold, and the opponent is wearing a gi or collared jacket, a common and extremely efficient form of attack is the choke from the knee-on-belly position.

1



Carlson starts from the side-control position.

2

Carlson passes his right arm over Julio's upper body.



Carlson raises his body to set up the knee control.

3



4



Carlson inserts both hands deep inside Julio's lapel.

5



Carlson rotates his body to trap Julio's shoulder.

6



Carlson drops his upper body and finishes the choke.

## 25 Ezekiel choke from side-control position

The Ezekiel choke can be useful in a myriad of situations, such as this quick submission from a side-control position.

1



Carlson starts from the side-control position.

2



Carlson prepares the choke.

3



Carlson passes his hand over Julio's shoulder.

4



Carlson grabs inside his own sleeve.

5



Carlson passes his forearm over Julio's neck.

6



Carlson establishes position over Julio's head to prevent any defense to the choke.

## 26 Choke when opponent tries to escape side-control

Submission holds can arise from all kinds of positions. Here we look at an attack when the opponent tries to escape from side-control. When this happens, often it makes more sense to immediately attack with submission holds, rather than to fight to keep the side-control position.

1



Julio tries to escape from Carlson's side-control.

2

Julio rolls in Carlson's direction.



3



Carlson sprawls and drops his weight over Julio's back.

4



Carlson keep his weight down and prepares to set the choke.

5

Carlson inserts his hand deep inside Julio's lapel.



6



Carlson reaches Julio's other lapel.

7



Carlson starts to spread his weight over Julio's back.

8



Carlson rolls to establish the choke.

9



Carlson keeps his hips against the floor to submit Julio and prevent any escape.

## 27 Closed-guard lapel choke

This versatile submission choke can be used when the opponent tries to pass the closed guard and keeps one of his knees down on the ground. It is very effective and combines well with the arm bar attack in position 33.



Carlson controls Julio's arm and neck in his closed guard.



Carlson keeps his hand on Julio's neck and grabs the lapel of Julio's gi.

3



Carlson pushes Julio's hips, forcing him to lower his head.

4



Carlson passes the lapel over Julio's head.

5



Carlson executes the submission choke.

## 28 Side-control lapel choke

This transition from side-control into a side-control stranglehold is a good example of taking advantage of the resistance of a live opponent and turning it into victory for you.

1



Carlson holds Julio down in a 100-kilo hold.

2



Carlson releases the head control to grab his own lapel.

3



Carlson passes the lapel underneath Julio's neck.

4



Carlson changes to a cross-hold to establish control.

5

Carlson holds the lapel with both hands.



6



Carlson releases his left-hand grip, preparing to bring his arm over the top of Julio's neck.

7



Carlson wraps the lapel around Julio's neck.

8



Carlson brings his elbow over Julio's neck.

9



Carlson grabs his own gi to increase his leverage.

10

Carlson sinks the choke with his weight over Julio's neck.



## 29 Sleeve choke from the butterfly guard

Ideally, the butterfly guard is performed sitting up. Therefore, this position shows the transition from the half-guard to the seated butterfly guard and follows this up with a sleeve-choke submission.

1



Eric tries to control Julio while inside Julio's half-guard.

2



Julio pushes Eric's neck and biceps so he can switch to the butterfly guard.

3



Julio slides his left leg between Eric's legs.

4



Julio sits sideways in the butterfly guard and controls Eric's neck to keep him from passing the guard.

5



Julio holds Eric's wrist to prevent Eric from controlling his pants or arm.

6



In one quick move, Julio grabs his own sleeve and prepares the choke.

Julio moves his body sideways to finish the choke and cut off any escape.

7



## 30 Half-guard choke

When your opponent is holding you in his half-guard, a nice surprise can be to attempt a submission hold while still locked in the half-guard. Here, Julio performs a lapel choke while in the half-guard. If you lose your balance and get reversed while performing this choke, do not release the pressure on your opponent's neck; maintain the hold and you will submit him anyway.



Eric keeps Julio inside his half-guard.



Julio lifts his right arm to grab Eric's gi lapel.



Julio pulls the lapel with a strong move.

4



Julio passes the lapel under Eric's neck.

5



Julio switches the hand on Eric's lapel.

6

Julio secures the choke by tightening the lapel behind Eric's head.



7

Julio applies the submission. If your opponent rolls you, simply maintain the hold until he submits.



## 31 Kimura from side-control

Another great sport jiu-jitsu submission from side-control involves moving to the north-south immobilization position. As Carlson moves to the other side, he looks for a submission and decides on a Kimura lock.

1



Carlson holds Julio down in a 100-kilo hold.

2

Carlson crosses his left arm over Julio's head.



3



Carlson drops his weight over Julio's body to control Julio's arm.

4



Carlson gets on his knees and adjusts his arm control.

5



Carlson holds his own wrist.

6

To prevent Julio from defending, Carlson rotates to his right side.



7



Carlson prepares the finishing hold.

8



Carlson applies the Kimura submission.

## 32 Kimura from knee-on-stomach

The Kimura is a great option for an attack from the knee-on-stomach position because of its stability and because the lock is easy to apply and hard to escape. So be on the alert, and when you see the opportunity, go for it.

1



Carlson holds Julio down in a classic hips-and-head-control hold.

2

Carlson crosses his right arm over Julio's body.



3



Carlson achieves the knee-on-stomach position.

4

Julio tries to escape from the position by rolling into Carlson.



5



Carlson spins in one easy movement to hold Julio's arm.

6



Carlson plants his knees and holds his own wrist.

7



Carlson prepares the finishing hold.

8

Carlson applies the Kimura.



## 33 Closed-guard lapel arm bar

This move is best employed when the opponent is on his knees in your closed guard. The setup on the arm using the opponent's lapel makes it possible to obtain the correct angle for the arm lock.

1



Carlson controls Julio in the closed guard.

2



Carlson passes his right arm over Julio's right arm.

3



Carlson stretches Julio's arm.

4



Carlson grabs the bottom lapel of Julio's gi.

5



Carlson passes the lapel over Julio's arm.

6



Carlson pushes Julio's head to set up the arm bar.

7



Carlson brings both of his legs over Julio's body.

B



Carlson stretches his legs and submits Julio with an arm bar.

## 34 Arm bar with shoulder control

The arm bar with shoulder control is a great submission hold that can be used when an opponent tries to open your closed guard by pushing on your hips or knees. Don't forget to squeeze your knee over your opponent's shoulder blade to control his shoulder.



Carlson controls Julio, while Julio tries to pass Carlson's guard.



Carlson releases Julio's right sleeve.

Carlson insert his left arm under Julio's sleeve.



4



Carlson switches the angle of his attack while maintaining control of Julio's elbow, setting up his next move.

5



Carlson brings his left knee over Julio's right shoulder blade.

6

Carlson applies pressure for the submission.



## 35 Side-control to arm bar 1

Side-control is a starting-point position that enables a large number of positions and variations. The arm bar submission demonstrated here evolves from the moment that your opponent tries to escape side-control to replace the closed guard or at least attain the half-guard position.



Julio tries to escape side-control by holding on to Carlson's pants.



Carlson lifts his left leg and keeps his right knee on the floor.



Carlson crosses his left knee over Julio's arm to release Julio's hold.

4



Carlson controls Julio's sleeve.

5



Carlson spins over the controlled arm.

6



Carlson continues to spin and gains the mount position.

7



Carlson passes his leg over Julio's head and finishes with an arm bar.

## 36 Side-control to arm bar 2

This versatile submission can be used when an opponent is trying to escape side-control and gives you the opportunity to grab his sleeve and control his arm to apply the arm bar. This arm bar submission could also be applied from the knee-on-stomach position.



Julio attempts to escape side-control by pushing Carlson's hips.



Carlson holds the sleeve of Julio's gi to stop him.

Here we see the hold from a different angle.



4



Carlson achieves knee-on-stomach control.

5



In a quick motion, Carlson stands and uses both hands to control Julio's right arm.

Carlson controls Julio's arm with both of his arms and steps over Julio's head.

6



Carlson sits down and, squeezing his legs together, finishes with an arm bar.

7



## 37 Ankle lock from the side

Here, Carlson shows another great attack from side-control. Eric tries to replace the guard, but Carlson, after controlling Eric's legs, decides to surprise Eric and go for the immediate submission: a figure-four ankle lock.

1



Carlson controls Eric by placing his left knee on Eric's stomach.

2

Eric tries to escape from side-control or knee-on-belly.



In an attempt to catch Carlson in an armlock, Eric brings both of his legs over Carlson.

3



4



Carlson catches and controls Eric's left leg. Then, while holding his own lapel to secure the leg, Carlson steps over Eric's body.

5

Carlson switches to an ankle lock.



6

Carlson applies the submission at the same time that he squeezes his knees together.







## **Submission Grappling Techniques**

Guard Work

Escapes and Defenses

Chokes and Cranks

Arm Bars and Wrist Locks

## 38 Passing the closed guard 3

One good way to pass the closed guard in a submission grappling match is the standing guard pass. By standing up you can avoid a host of closed-guard attacks. This is a stable and strong way to pass the closed guard that gives you options to pass to either side. To pass the guard effectively, keep a good base and stance, shoot one knee through, and pass down and tight.

1



Julio is inside Chad's closed guard.

2



Julio stands and brings his hips back while controlling Chad's arms by holding his armpits.

Sliding his right knee between Chad's legs, Julio opens Chad's guard.

3



4



Julio passes his leg across Chad's thigh and holds Chad's arm to pass the guard.

5



Julio lowers his body to achieve side-control.

6



After passing the guard, Julio holds Chad's head and lowers his hips for side-control.

## 39 Passing the closed guard 4

Here, Julio uses the same strategy as in the previous position to open the closed guard. But as soon as he opens the closed guard, Julio slides his arms between Eric's legs to attain control. By lowering his head and pressing forward off his toes, Julio establishes side-control position.

1



Julio is inside Eric's closed guard.

2

Julio stands and slides his right knee between Eric's legs while controlling Eric's arms by holding his armpits.



3



Feeling the pressure between his legs, Eric opens his guard.

4



Quickly, Julio releases the hold on Eric's armpits and slides both hands between Eric's legs.

5

Julio lowers his body so that he can bring his hands together.



6



After locking his hands together, Julio is able to bring his full weight down on Eric's hips.

7

Julio holds Eric's opposite shoulder and shorts at the same time to prevent Eric from rolling out of the hold.



8



Julio drops his body over Eric's side to pass the guard.

9

After passing the guard, Julio holds Eric's head and lowers his hips for side-control.



## 40 Heel hook from the closed guard

The heel hook is a great way to attack an opponent who is standing up in your closed guard. When you kick your foot inside and around the leg you're attacking, this move will knock your opponent down to the floor. Pull the toes of the foot you are attacking under your armpit, hook your wrist under and around the heel of that foot, and lock and squeeze your hands together to increase the pressure and control. Be extremely careful when using this technique in training or practice—injuries are common, and by the time the opponent feels pain, most likely some damage has occurred.

1



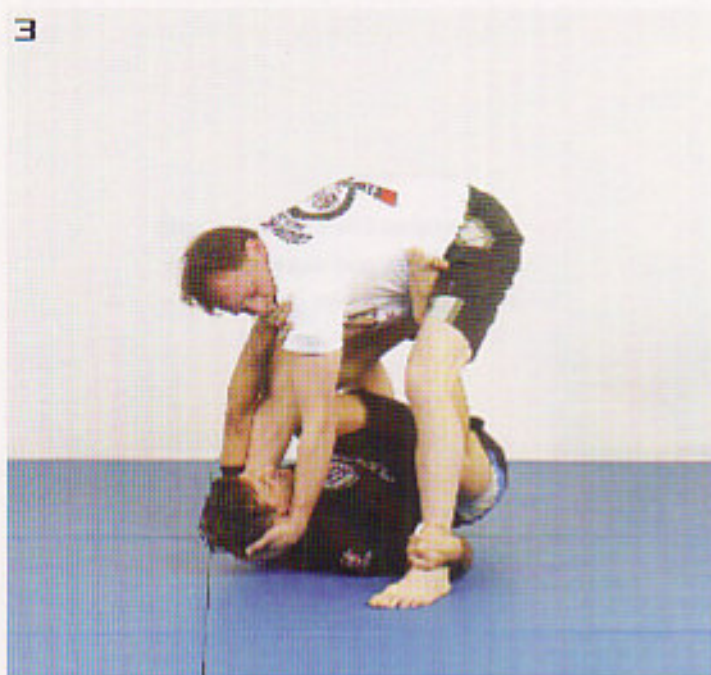
Eric holds Julio's neck with both hands.

2



Trying to open the guard, Eric stands and gets both hands behind Julio's neck.

3



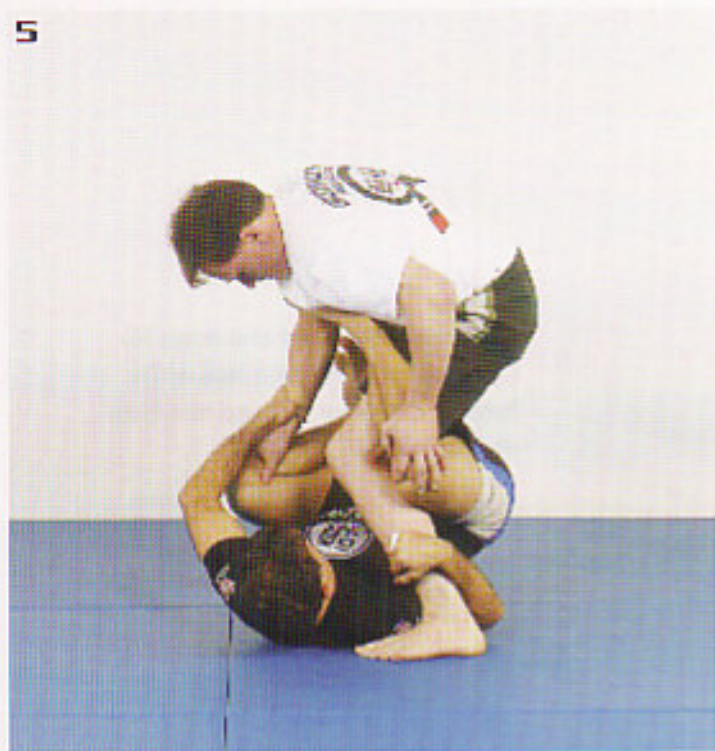
Julio opens his guard and drops his right leg between Eric's legs while holding Eric's foot to keep him from stepping back.

4

Julio swings his right leg over Eric's leg.



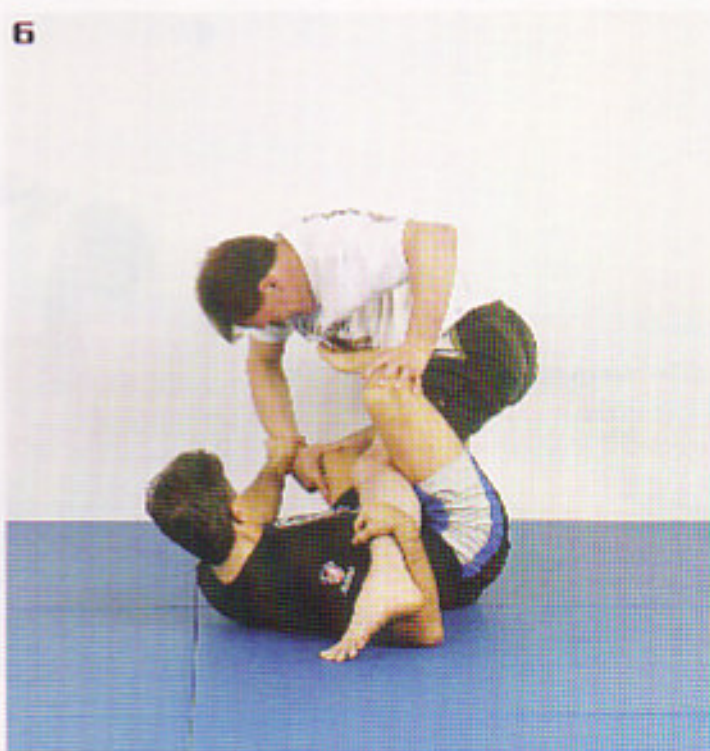
5



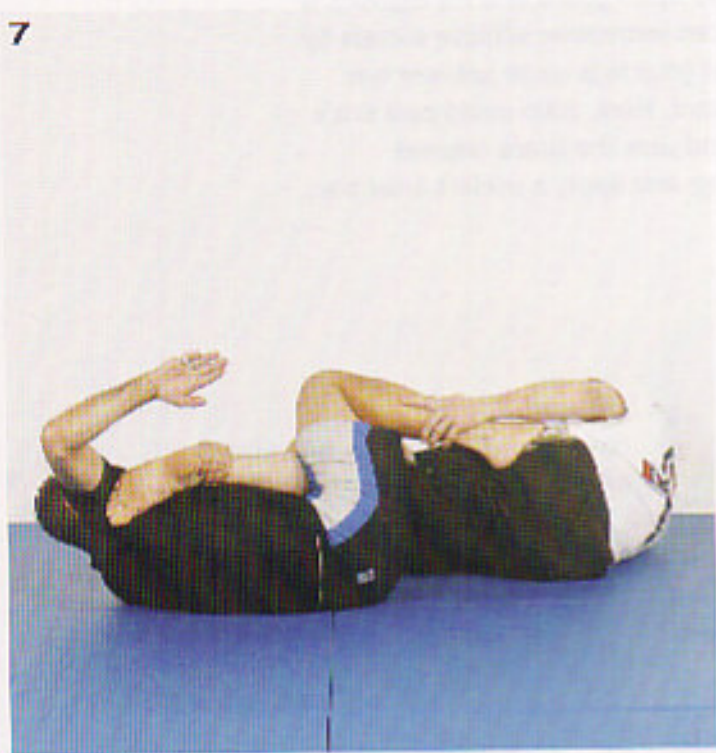
Julio pushes Eric's right hip with his left foot and slides his right foot between him and Eric.

6

Julio pushes Eric's right knee with his left foot, causing Eric to start to lose his balance.



7



After Eric falls, Julio drops his right forearm against Eric's heel and passes his right leg over Eric's left knee.

8

With Eric's heel in place, Julio applies the heel-hook submission.



# 41 Standing open guard to knee bar

In cases where your opponent has a very good open guard and his legwork is preventing you from passing his guard, you can sometimes achieve success by sitting forward between his legs. Keep one of your legs up to prevent him from taking your back or closing his open guard. Here, Julio could pass Eric's guard easily, but he controls Eric's left foot and uses the space created between him and Eric to roll over Eric's left leg and apply a perfect knee bar.



From a standing position, Julio tries to pass Eric's open guard.



Julio drops in between Eric's legs. Julio has his right leg down and his left leg up.

Julio controls Eric's left foot at the same time that he crosses his left leg over Eric's hip, preventing Eric from going to his back.



4



Here we can see the same position from a different angle.

5



Julio rotates over Eric's hips while maintaining control of Eric's foot.

6

Julio establishes control of Eric's leg.



7

Julio locks Eric's knee, stretches his hips forward, and arches his back to finish the knee-bar submission.



# 42 Standing open guard to heel hook

As with the previous position, this attack is a solution if you are having difficulty passing the open guard. But this time, the solution is to go for a quick submission: the heel hook. Although the submission is called "heel hook," the pressure is actually a rotation of the knee. It can cause tremendous damage to knee ligaments and joints, so be extremely cautious when practicing it.



From a standing position, Julio tries to pass Chad's open guard.

Julio drops in between Chad's legs. Julio has his right leg down and his left leg up.



Julio controls Chad's left foot at the same time that he holds Chad's left knee.



4



Julio sits and brings his right leg over Chad's left leg, while holding Chad's left heel.

5



Julio cranks the heel hook, keeping his right foot underneath Chad's right knee to prevent Chad from rolling out of the heel hook.

Here we can see the submission from a different angle.

6



## 43 Butterfly guard reversal to knee bar

This butterfly guard reversal sets you up perfectly for a knee bar. Whether or not you go for the knee bar depends upon the match situation. If you are significantly behind in points and time is running out, you should go for the submission; otherwise, after the reversal, gain side-control and apply other strategies.

1



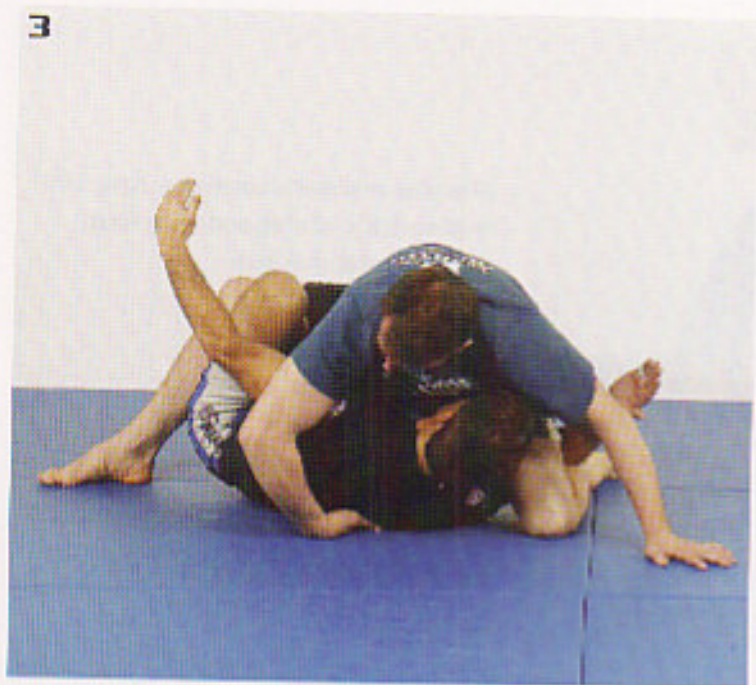
Julio controls Eric's hand in the butterfly guard.

2



Julio lowers his body and slides his right hand between Eric's legs.

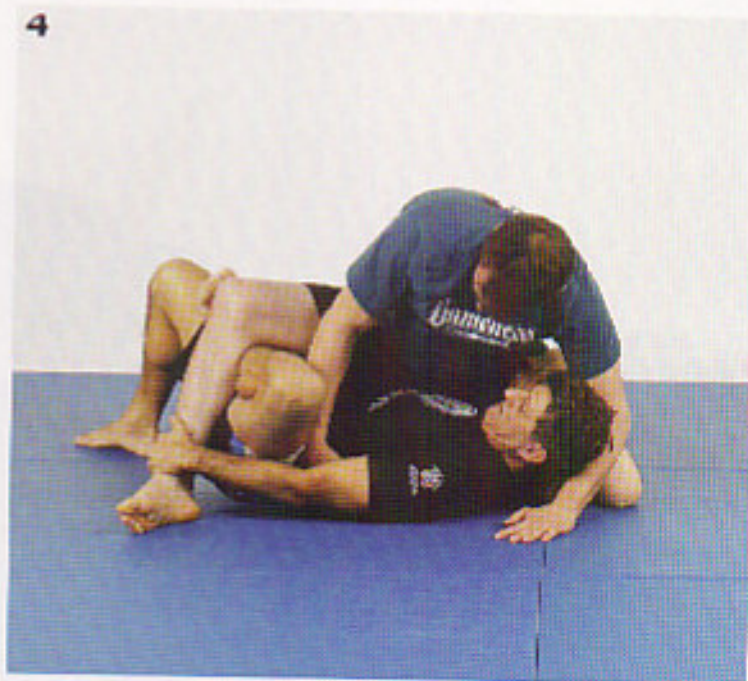
3



Julio controls Eric's left leg with his right arm and hooks Eric's right leg with his left leg.

4

Julio grabs Eric's right foot with his left hand to reverse the position.

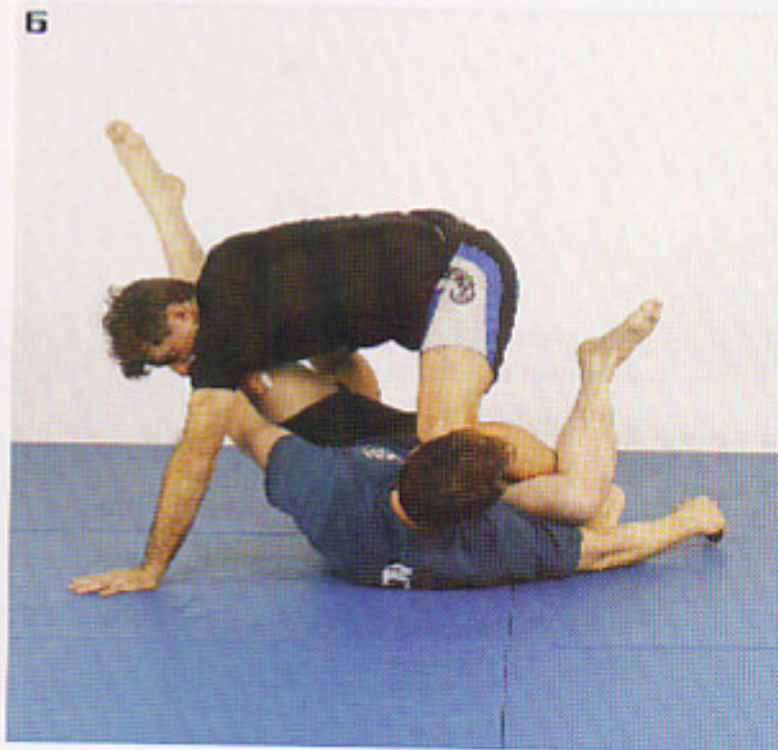


5



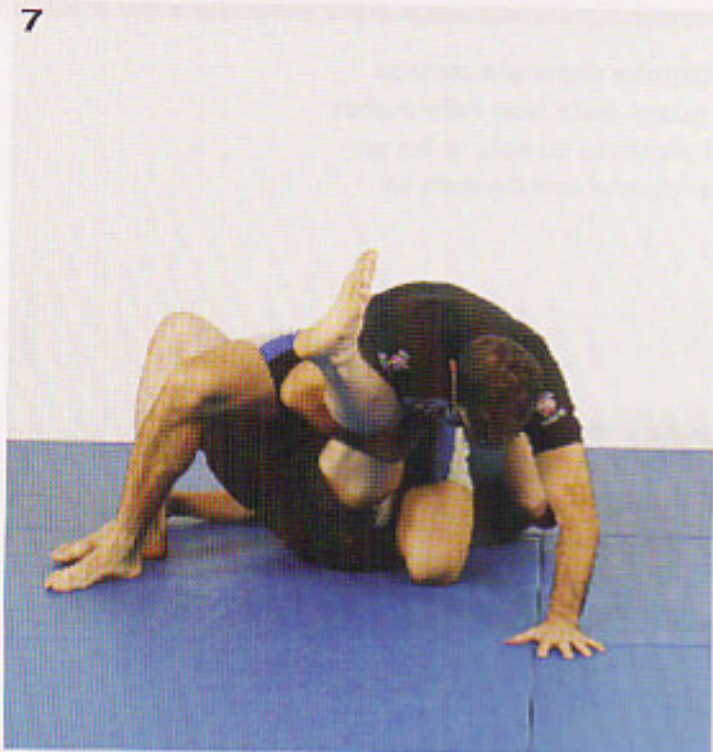
After the reversal is complete, Julio, still holding Eric's left leg and right foot, establishes top position.

6



Still holding Eric's left leg, Julio braces his left hand on the ground for balance and passes his leg over Eric's hip.

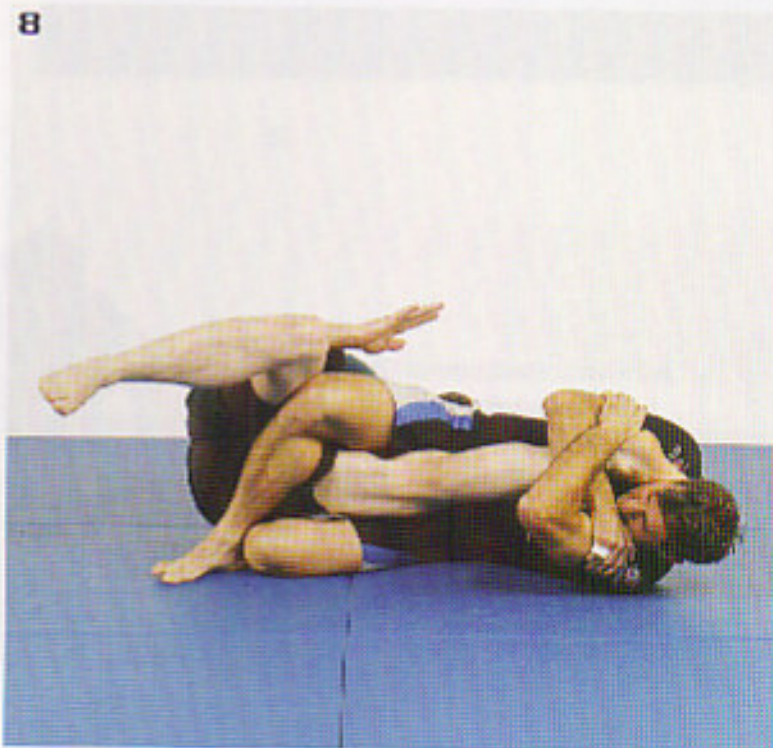
7



Julio drops his left knee to the ground while holding Eric's leg.

8

Julio squeezes his knees together to control Eric's leg and applies the knee bar by stretching his hips and body backward.

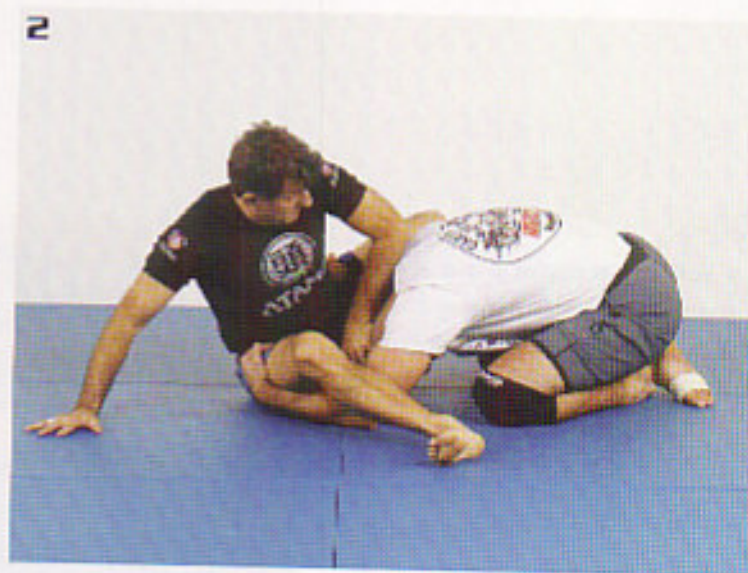


## 44 Triangle choke when opponent controls your hips

This triangle choke submission attack starts when the opponent controls your hips and attempts to pass your butterfly guard. Note how Julio pushes Chad's head down to control Chad's head and armpit to be able to set up the triangle choke. The key here is speed, balance, and coordination to surprise your opponent.



Chad holds Julio's hips with both arms while Julio pushes Chad's neck to maintain distance between them.



Julio sits up and pushes Chad's head down between his legs.

3



Quickly, Julio opens his right leg sideways and slides his right arm under Chad's armpit.

4



Placing his right foot on Chad's left hip, Julio releases the hold on his right leg and pulls up Chad's left arm.

5

Quickly, without releasing control of the arm, Julio lies back and passes his left leg over Chad's shoulders.

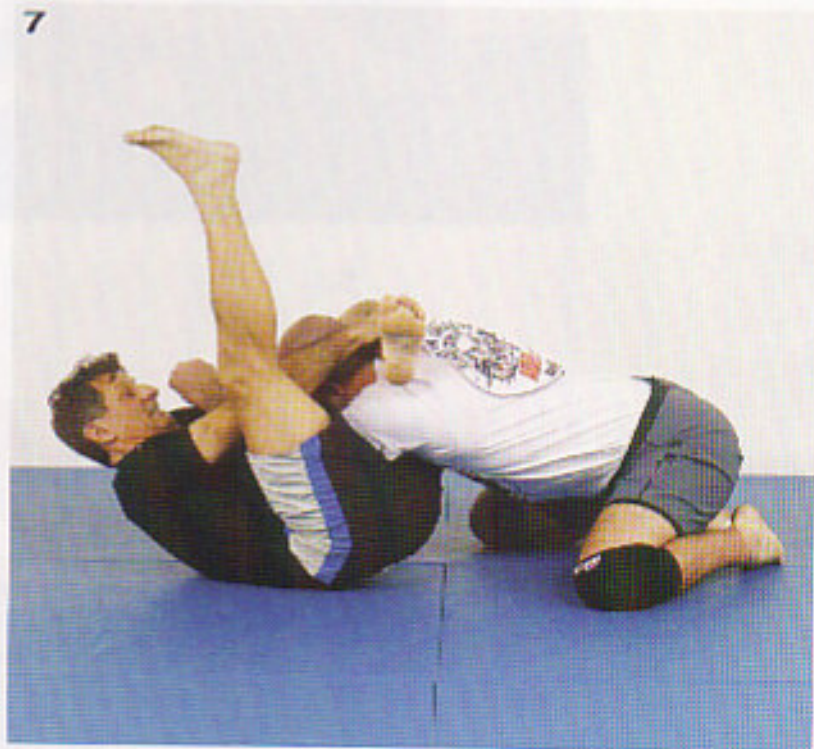


6



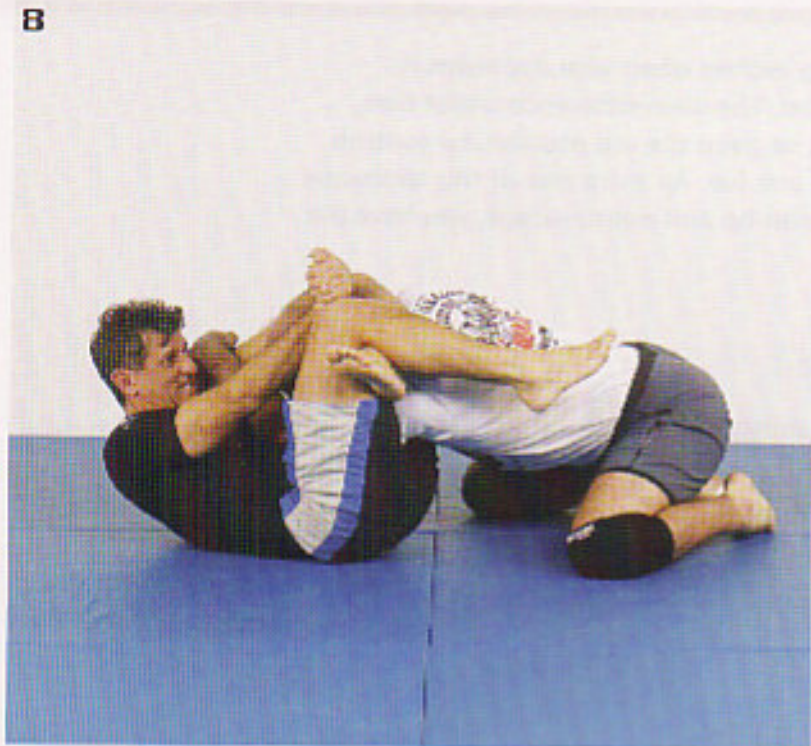
Julio reaches for his left shin with his right hand to set the triangle choke.

7



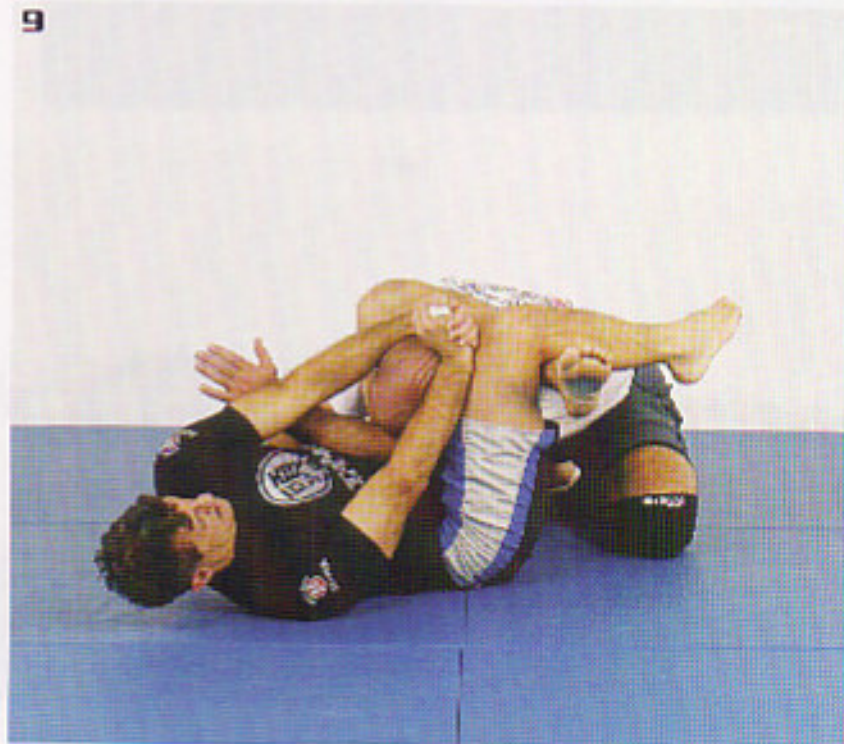
Julio lifts his hips and pulls in his right ankle to increase the pressure on Chad's neck.

8



Julio holds Chad's head down and squeezes both knees together to prevent Chad from attempting any defense.

9



From this angle we can clearly see the triangle choke.

# 45 Sweep and arm bar when opponent controls your hips

As in the previous position, this sweep evolves when your opponent is attempting to pass your butterfly guard. The main difference is that here, Julio reverses the position. As soon as he gains the top position, he controls Eric's elbow and goes for the straight arm bar. An extra plus of this technique is that, if the opponent manages to twist his arm out to escape, you have the option to go for a triangle choke.

1



Eric controls Julio's hips with both arms and Julio pushes Eric's neck to keep distance between them.

2

Julio sits up and sideways at the same time that he pushes down on Eric's head.



3



Quickly, Julio opens his right leg and slides his right arm under Eric's armpit.

4



Julio keeps a strong hold while keeping Eric's head down.

5



Quickly, without releasing control of the arm, Julio rotates his body sideways to apply a reversal sweep.

6



Eric falls to his right side  
while Julio sits up.

7

Julio places knee-on-stomach,  
establishing control of Eric's  
arm from the top position.

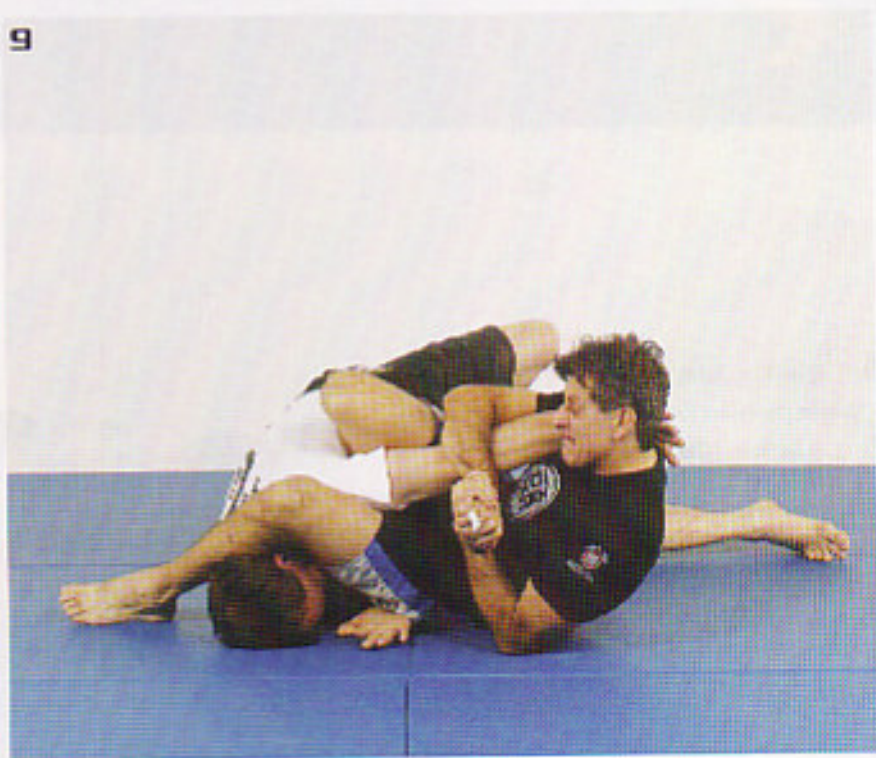


8



Julio presses Eric's head down while establishing the submission hold.

9



Julio squeezes his knees together and cranks the arm-bar submission.

## 46 Escape from the north-south hold

The north-south hold is very stable for the attacker and is the starting point for many attacks. Being able to escape from it and reverse the situation is extremely important for a submission grappling fighter. This great escape developed by Carlson is an excellent way to escape from the north-south hold and attain side-control.

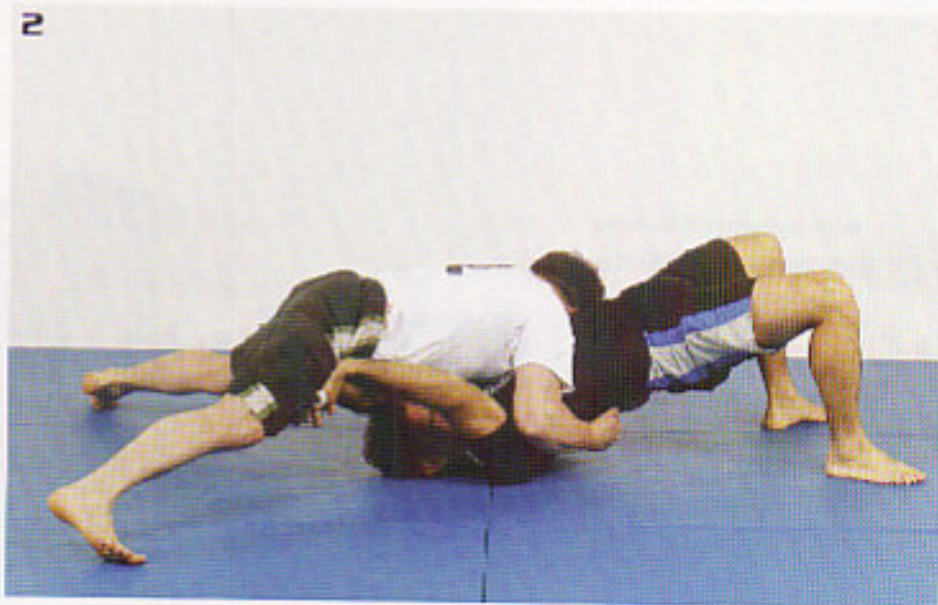
1



Eric holds Julio in the north-south position. Julio keeps his arms close to his own body.

2

Quickly, Julio bridges while pushing Eric's hips backward.



3



Quickly, Julio moves his body sideways and brings his left arm behind Eric's right leg.

4

Julio spins on his head so he can move against Eric's leg.



5



Julio holds Eric's leg with both arms and keeps his left shoulder against Eric's hip.

6

Switching the base of his legs, Julio moves against Eric's side.



7



Julio continues the semi-circular move until he executes the takedown.

8



After the takedown is complete, Julio controls from the side.

## 47 Escape from leg control to single-leg takedown

This escape from the bottom, developed by Carlson, is his favorite way to escape when your opponent attains control of your legs. The hold on your legs is very powerful; if the escape is not done properly, you will end up on your back and your opponent will be holding you in the side-control position. If executed correctly, however, this escape can take you from a bad situation to a good one: a reversal and then side-control.

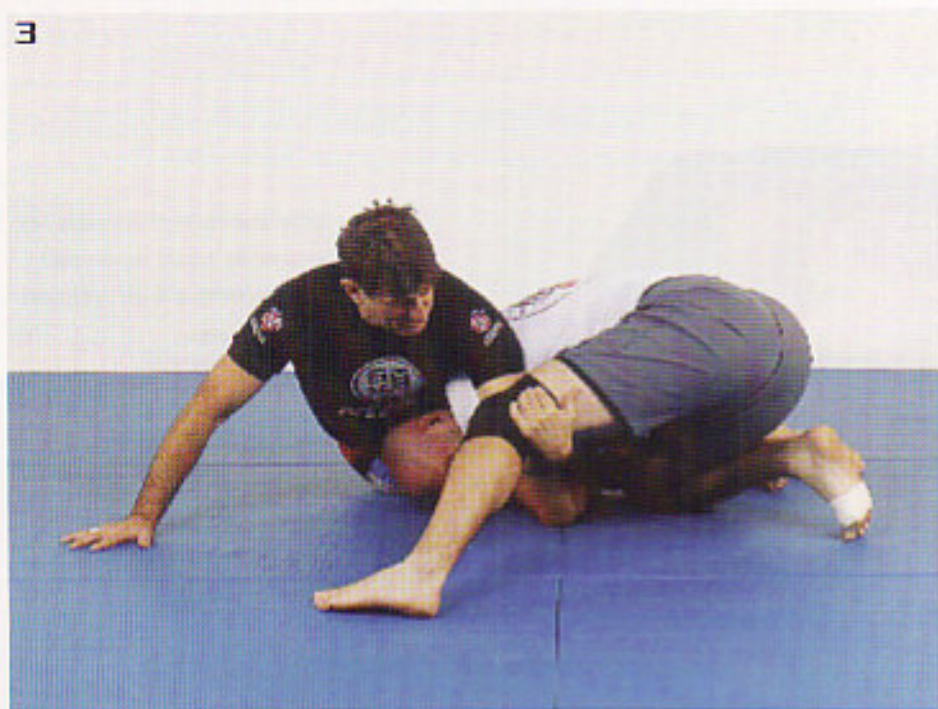


From a standing position, Chad tries to pass Julio's open guard.



Chad controls Julio's legs.

3



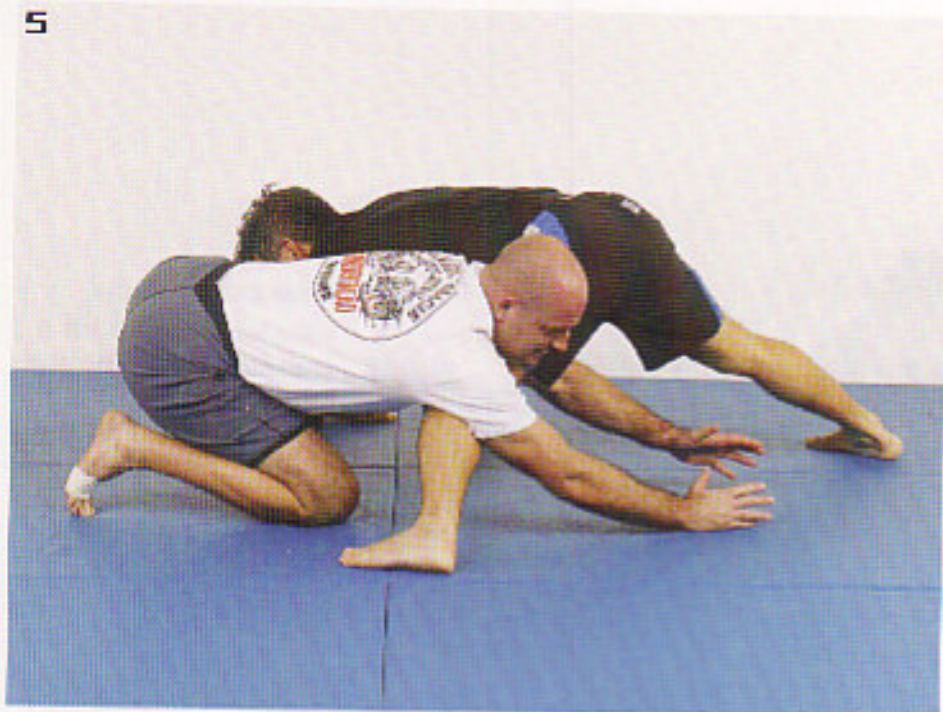
When Chad lowers his body, Julio slides his left forearm inside Chad's left knee.

4



Chad tries to maintain the hold on both of Julio's legs as Julio, still maintaining the hold on Chad's left knee, starts to stand up.

5



Julio stands and spreads his legs wide apart while still maintaining a tight grip on Chad's knee.

6

Julio drops his left knee and squeezes Chad's leg against his chest.



7



In a semicircular move, Julio executes the single-leg takedown and reverses the position.

8

After the takedown is complete, Julio controls from the side position.



# 48 Defending the guillotine 1

Everyone dreads being caught in a guillotine choke from the closed guard. When this happens to you, however, don't panic. There are ways out, as Julio demonstrates here. Be sure to turn your head against your opponent's side, hold his shoulder around the neck, and press forward over his face when you elevate your body. If even one of these details is missing, you will be submitted.



Eric controls Julio's arm inside his closed guard.



Eric releases Julio's left wrist and elevates his body.



Eric passes his arm over and around Julio's neck.

4



Eric closes his hands around Julio's neck and applies the choke.

5



To defend the choke, Julio turns his head against Eric's body and passes his hand behind Eric's shoulder.

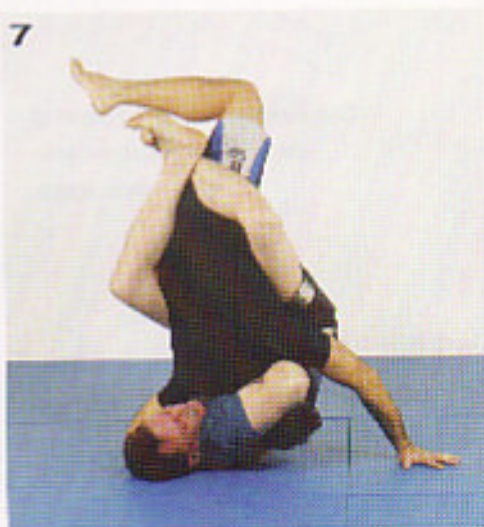
6



Julio lifts his body and keeps his left hand on the floor to defend the choke.

Julio lifts his leg all the way up, first to apply pressure to Eric's face and second to create an angle that permits the defense against the guillotine.

7



# 49 Defending the guillotine 2

The guillotine choke is a very effective submission technique that surprises even professional fighters. Here, Julio shows the defense of the guillotine choke when your opponent presses forward with his hips, trying to increase the pressure on your neck. Elevating your body changes the angle of the choke on your neck, which makes it possible to defend the choke.



Chad controls Julio's head with his left hand.



Chad keeps the head control and moves his right arm around Julio's head.

3



Chad slides his right forearm under Julio's neck.

4



Chad releases the neck hold in order to close the guillotine.

5



Chad closes the guillotine hold and Julio starts to defend it.

6

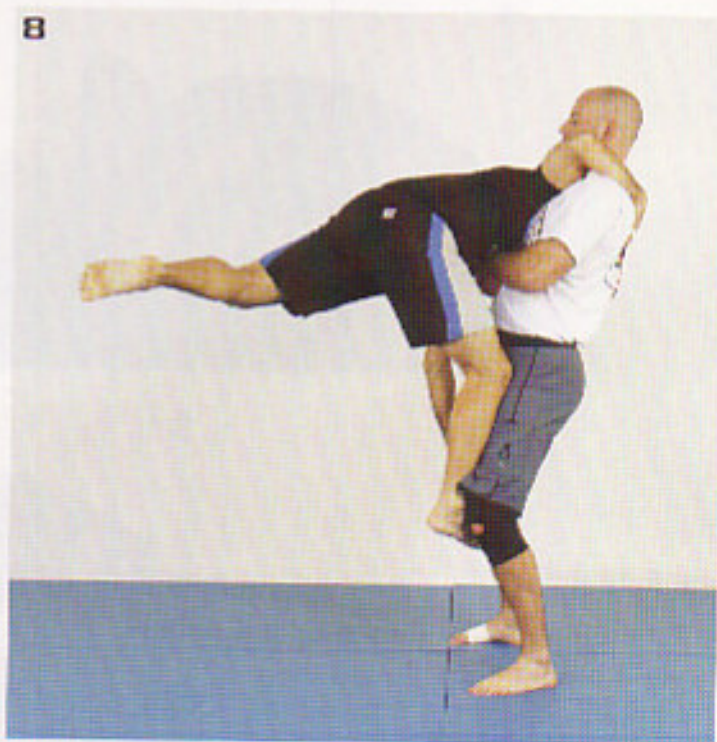
Julio passes his right hand behind Chad's back. Julio also needs to control Chad's knee in order to defend the guillotine.





While Chad lifts his back to increase the pressure, Julio hooks his right shin inside Chad's leg.

Using Chad's knee and leg for leverage, Julio lifts his entire body off the floor to create an angle that relieves the guillotine pressure.



## 50 Neck crank from the mount

In the mounted position it is especially important to have multiple attacks at your disposal. Here, Carlson demonstrates a good strategy when your opponent is trying to escape the mounted position. Carlson starts controlling Chad's right hand at the same time that he controls Chad's neck. Carlson leans forward, putting his weight on Chad's head, and transitions from the mount to side-control. From there, Carlson can finish with a neck crank by lowering his head and pressing forward off his toes.



Carlson keeps his body low while mounted on Chad.



Chad tries an elbow exit to escape from the bottom, but Carlson prevents him by controlling Chad's wrist.



Carlson pushes Chad's hand down and steps over with his left leg.

4



Carlson switches from the mount to the head-control position.

5



Carlson holds his hands together to put pressure on Chad's neck.

6

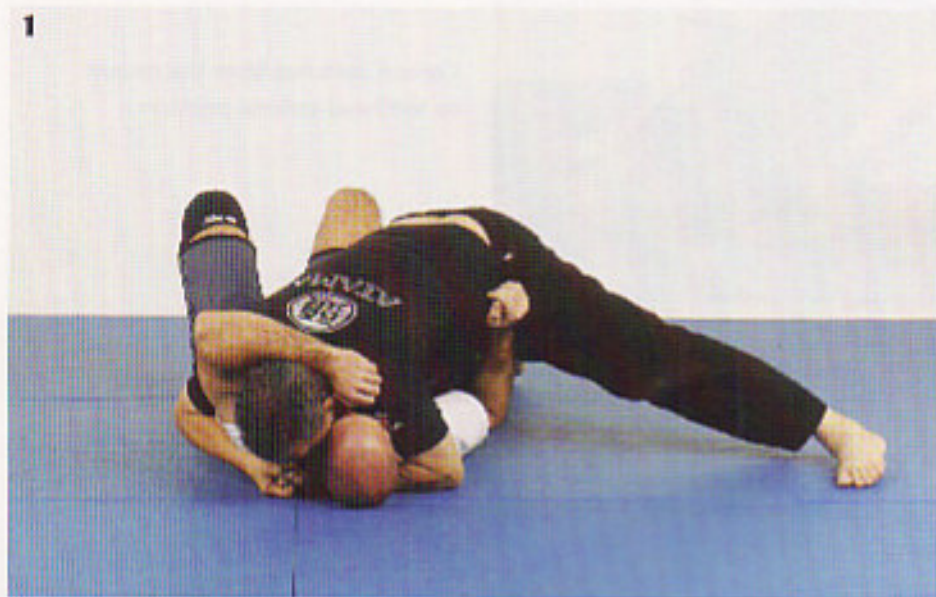


Carlson increases the pressure on Chad's neck, finishing the neck crank.

## 51 Scissors neck crank from the Kimura

Carlson believes that side-control is one of the most stable positions in submission grappling. Because of that, he loves to launch attacks from it. Here, Carlson demonstrates the scissors neck crank as an option when attacking the arm of your opponent.

1



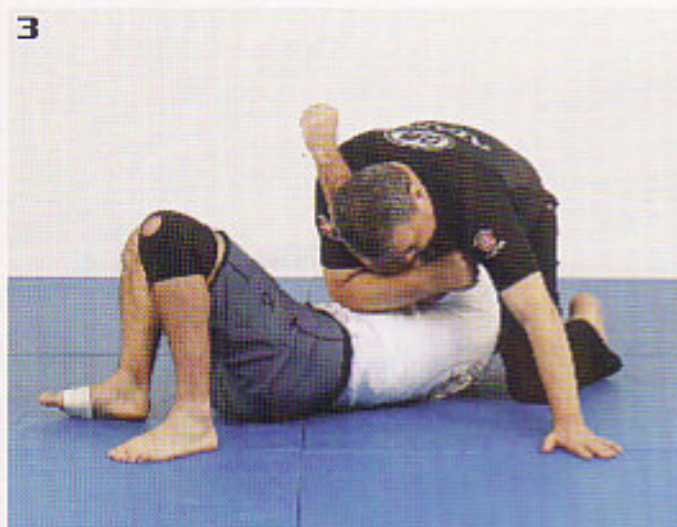
Carlson controls Chad from the cross-body position.

2



Carlson sees the chance for a submission on Chad's left arm.

3



Carlson applies pressure to the arm.

4



Keeping his body low,  
Carlson controls Chad's  
left arm with both of his.

5



To set up the submission, Carlson  
must switch his hold to Chad's  
wrist. He begins that here.

6



Carlson locks Chad's left arm and wrist.

7

Chad defends the submission by holding his own wrist.

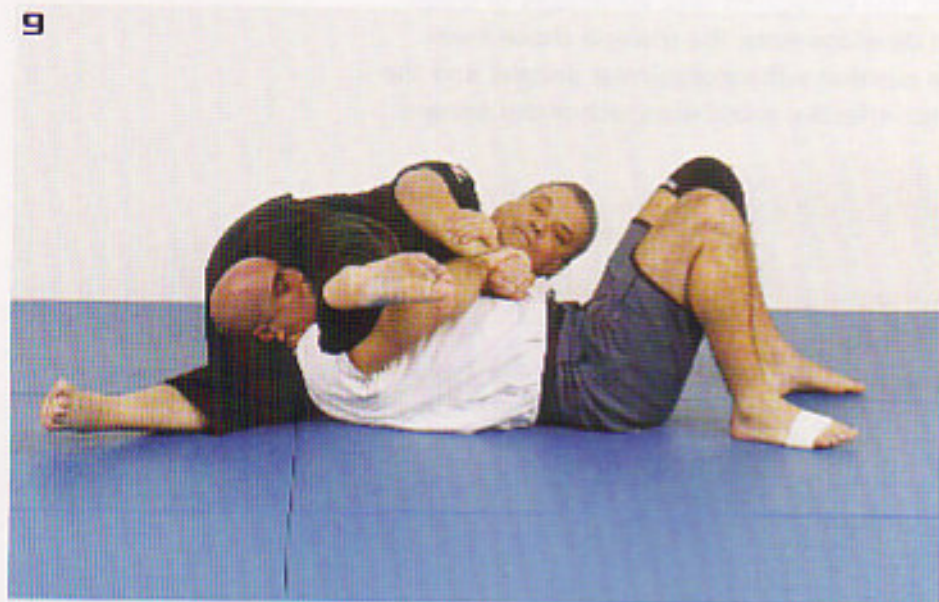


8

Without releasing Chad's arm and wrist, Carlson rolls sideways.



9



Carlson prepares a scissoring neck crank.

10



Carlson applies pressure to Chad's neck for the neck crank.

## 52 Triangle choke from the mount

When you are mounted on an opponent, you can expect him to be doing anything he can to get out of the mounted position. This usually gives you some opportunities, if you react fast enough to take advantage of them. Here is one of Carlson's newest developments: the triangle choke from the mount. If done quickly, this position will surprise most people, and the triangle choke is one of the most effective submission techniques known.

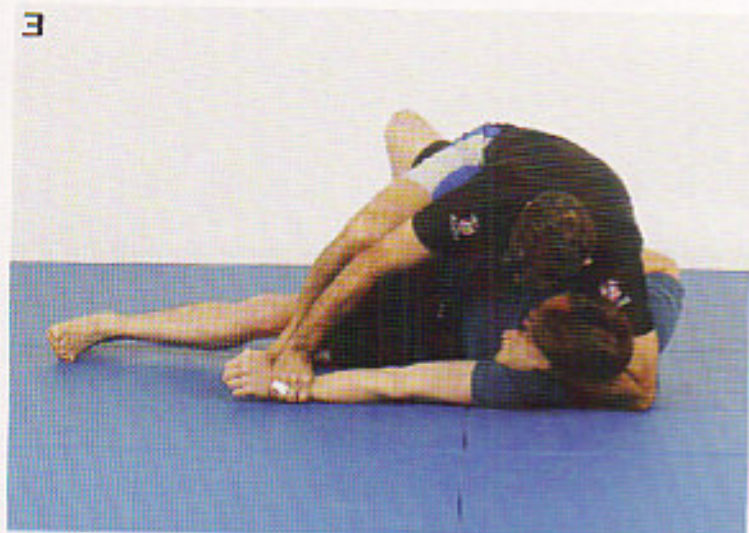


Julio is mounted on Eric and holding his neck.



Eric tries to escape by pushing on Julio's knee.

3



Without releasing Eric's neck, Julio grabs Eric's wrist to control it.

4



Julio crosses his leg behind Eric's neck and holds his own ankle.

5



To prevent any defense, Julio controls Eric's arm.

6



Julio rolls to his side and uses his left foot on Eric's right hip to adjust the hold.

7



Julio brings his leg over Eric's controlled arm.

8



Julio locks the choke and starts to apply pressure to Eric's head.

9



Eric can't escape from the triangle choke and accepts the submission.

## 53 Choke from side-control

As previously mentioned, it is essential that you have multiple attacks in your arsenal. So much of grappling depends on you surprising your opponent, but if you only have a few weapons at your disposal, your opponent will quickly be able to anticipate them. This is certainly true in the side-control position. From side-control, Chad uses Eric's reaction to slide into a head-and-arm choke. Chad finishes the choke by lowering his head and pressing forward from his toes.

1



Chad holds Eric in the cross-body position.

2



Chad releases the hold to set up the submission choke.

3



Chad pushes Eric's arm sideways.

4



Chad keeps his head down while establishing the position.

5



Chad jumps over Eric's body without releasing his hold on Eric's neck or control of Eric's arm.

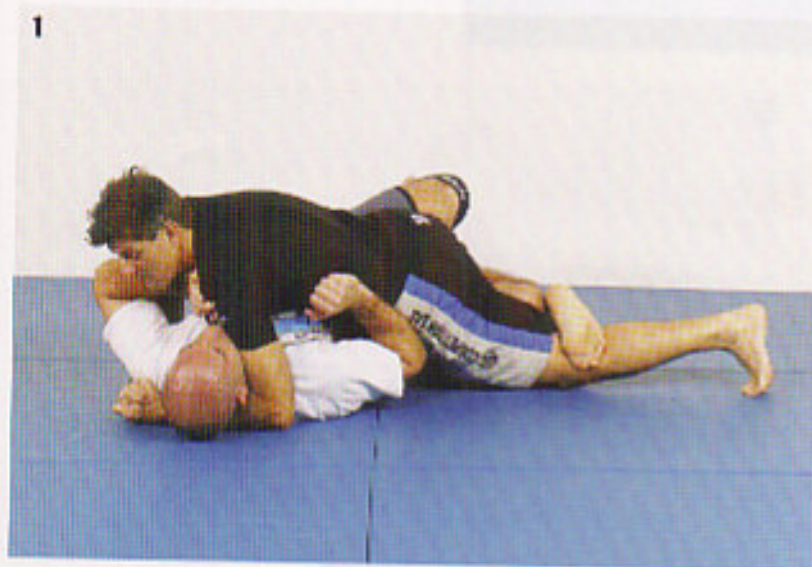
6



Chad submits Eric by lifting his hips, applying pressure to Eric's neck.

## 54 Passing the half-guard to a neck crank

In this position, Julio gets caught in Chad's half-guard and shows an excellent way to pass it. The key to this technique is to control your opponent's arm, head, and neck. To pass the half-guard, use your head, arm, and leg as a "tripod" base on the floor and pass your opposite knee over and through your opponent's hips. As soon as you pass the half-guard, apply the neck crank, lowering your head and pressing forward off your toes.



Chad tries to escape the half-guard. Julio locks his legs in a triangle to prevent Chad from replacing the closed guard.

Here we see the same position from a different angle.



3



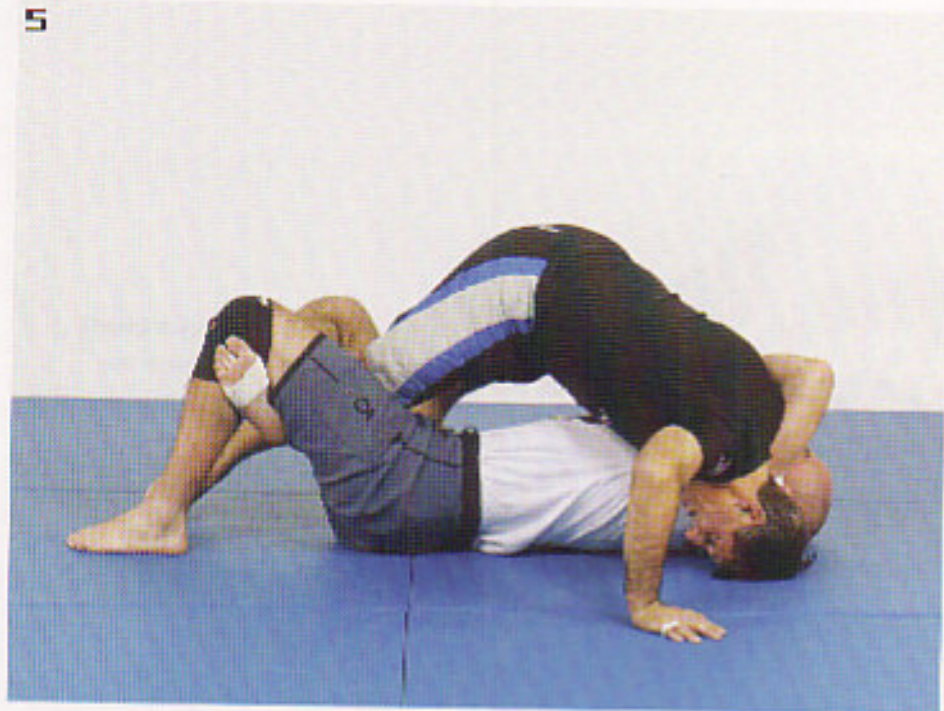
Julio pushes on Chad's elbow to release the pressure on his neck.

4

Julio moves his head under Chad's armpit.



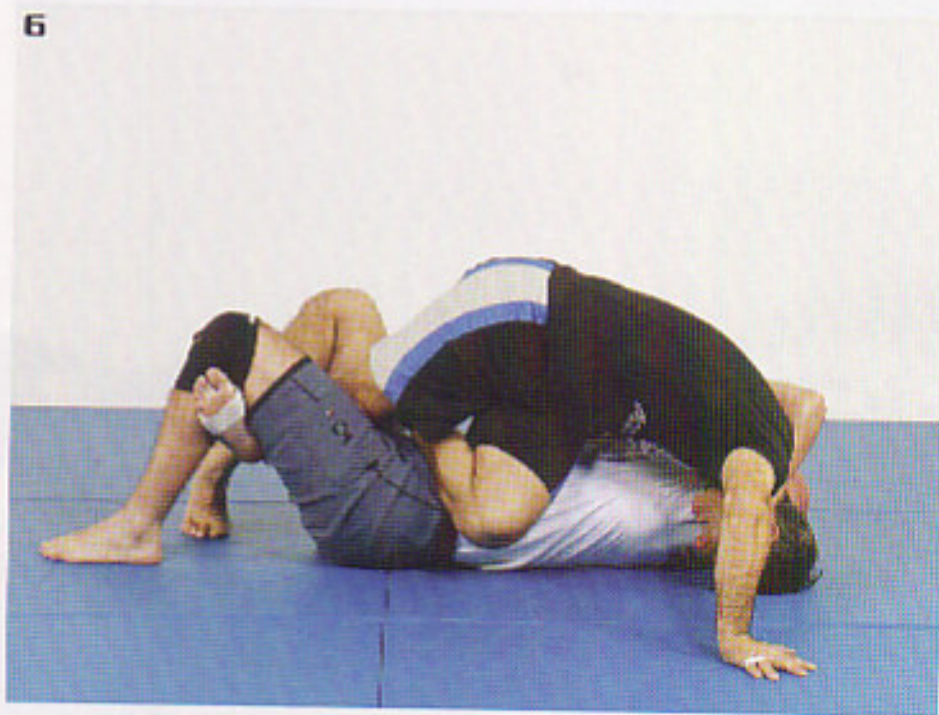
5



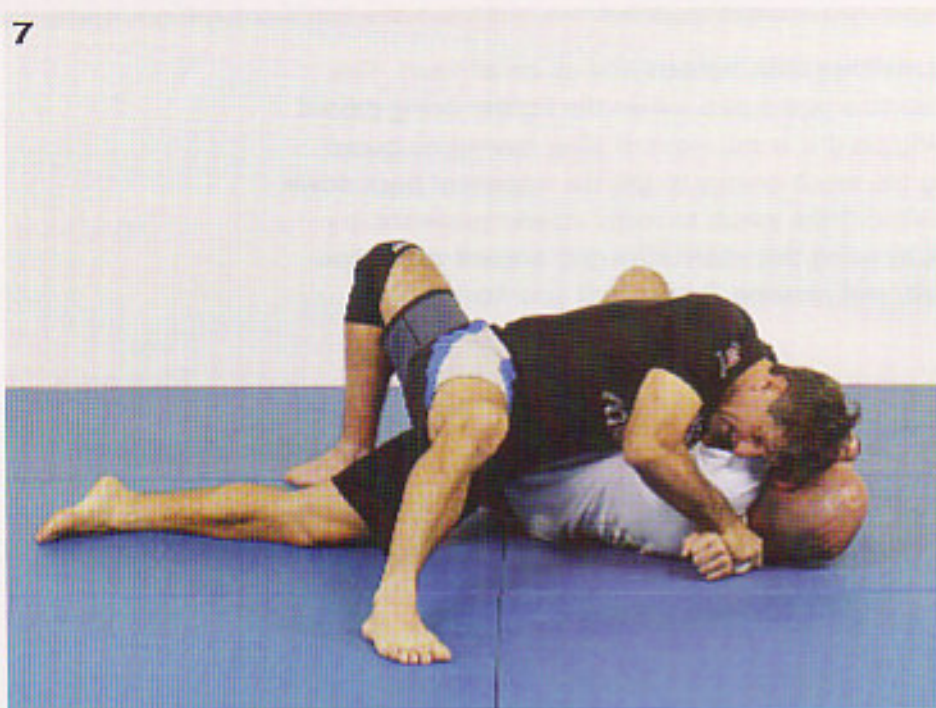
Julio establishes a tripod balancing position (head, hand, and right leg on the ground).

6

In a quick motion, Julio brings his left leg across Chad's stomach.



7



Passing the half-guard, Julio controls Chad's arm and neck to apply the submission.

8

Julio spreads his legs, balances his weight parallel to the floor, and applies the neck-crank submission hold.



## 55 Neck crank from all fours

Often in submission grappling matches both fighters end up on all fours. This frequently happens as a defense to a guard pass, when the fighter being passed turns to his knees to avoid being caught in side-control after having his guard passed. Rather than expending too much energy to get the opponent back down and secure the side-control position from which so many attacks originate, try going directly for a neck crank by using this alternative grip around your opponent's neck, lowering your head, and pressing forward off your toes.



Eric holds Chad in the all-fours position.

In a quick motion, Eric releases Chad's hips as he prepares the neck crank.



Eric wraps his right arm around Chad's neck.



4



Eric pulls his right wrist with his left hand to intensify the pressure on Chad's neck.

Eric brings his head down and forward, further increasing the pressure on Chad's neck.

5



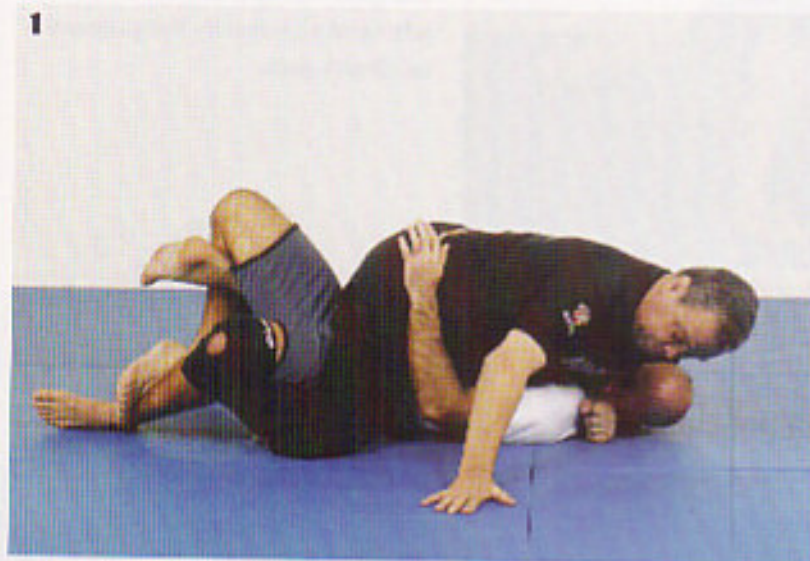
Switching the position of his legs, Eric adds additional pressure to Chad's neck and finishes the neck crank.

6



## 56 Kimura from the mount

Here Carlson shows another option from the mount. When Chad tries to escape from the mount, Carlson sees the opportunity for a Kimura after controlling Chad's left wrist. Carlson achieves side-control and performs the Kimura lock with perfect balance, leverage, and technique.



Carlson controls Chad from the mount.



Chad tries to escape, but Carlson prevents him by controlling Chad's wrist.

3



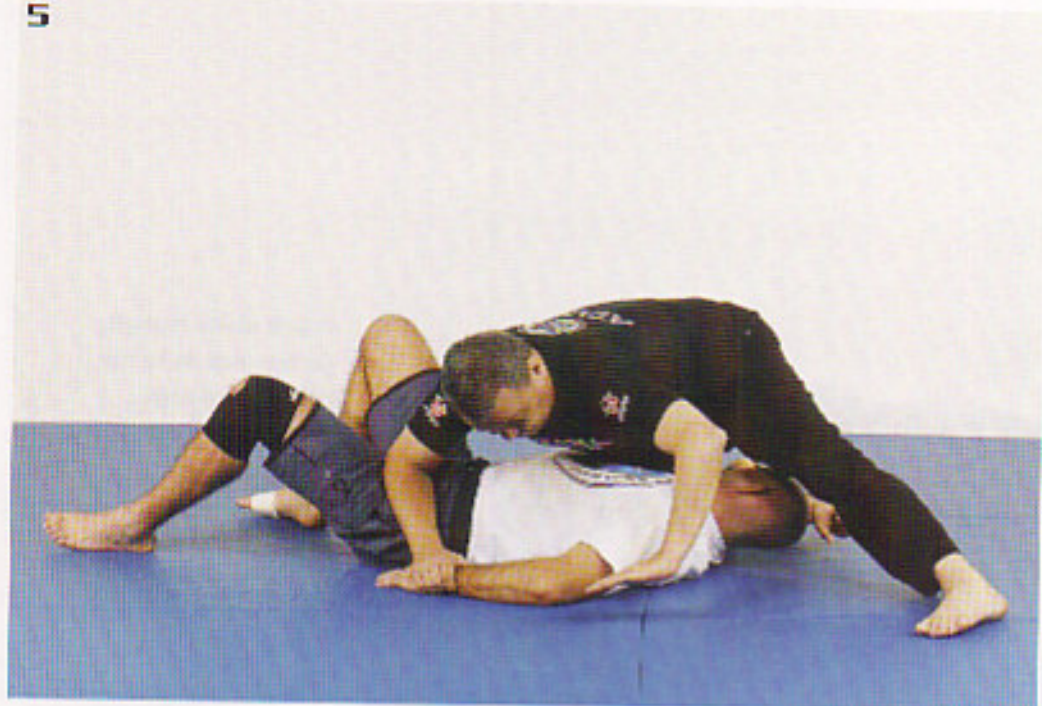
In one quick motion, Carlson moves to the side-control hold.

4

Keeping his body low, Carlson controls Chad's left arm and holds his wrist.



5



Carlson slides his  
left arm under  
Chad's shoulder.

6



Carlson stands on both  
knees and secures the  
hold on Chad's left arm  
and wrist.

7



To keep Chad from employing a defense, Carlson lifts Chad's arm while maintaining the lock.

8



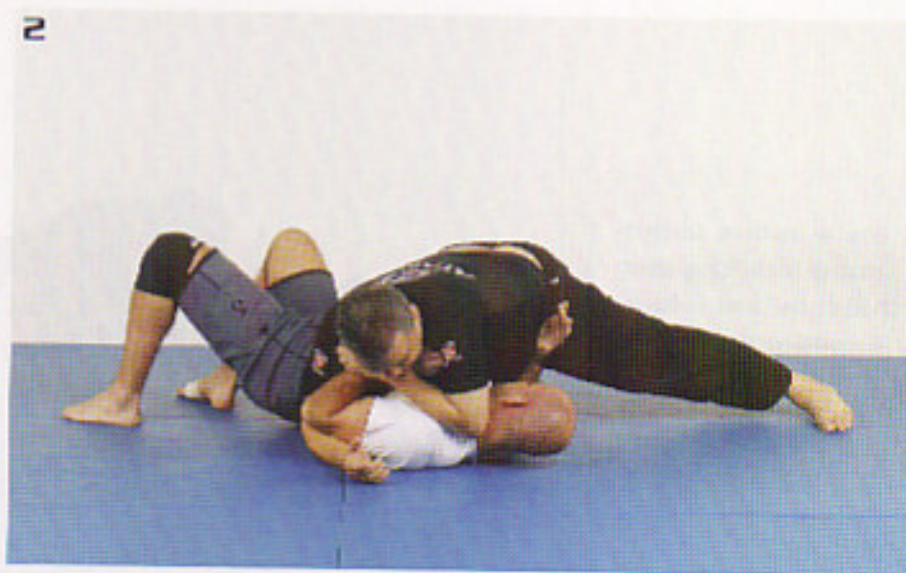
In one motion, Carlson crosses his left leg over Chad's head and finishes with a Kimura hold.

## 57 Side-control "cow's hand" submission

Another option for a quick finish from side-control is the cow's hand (*mão de vaca*), also known as a wrist-lock submission. As soon as Chad starts pushing on Carlson's neck to try to escape the side hold, Carlson locks Chad's left wrist under his chin and performs the submission leaning sideways and forward.

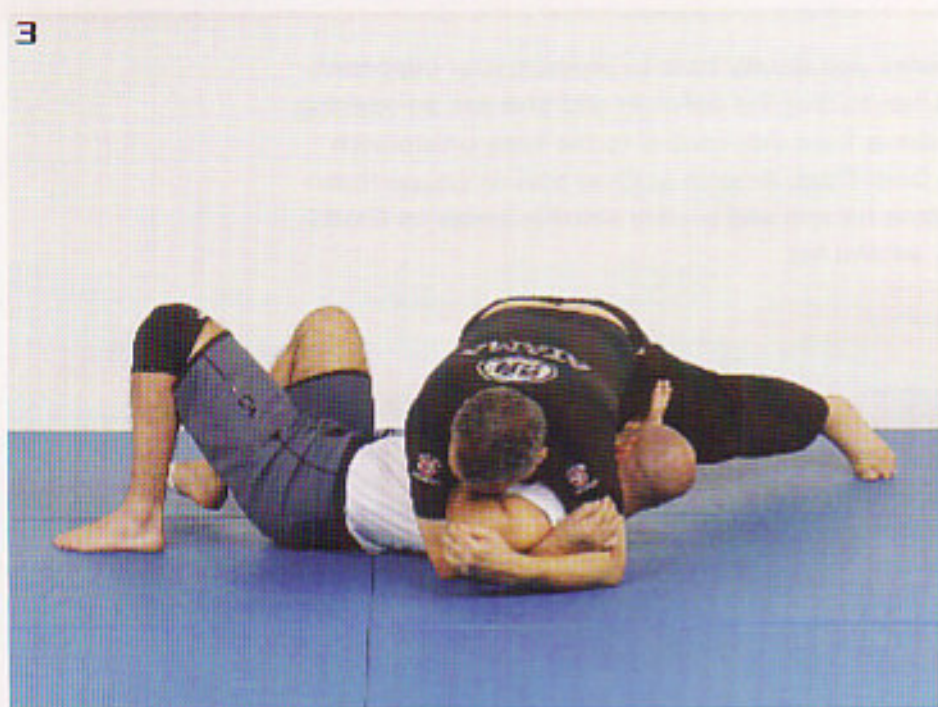


Carlson controls Chad from the cross-body position.



Carlson pushes Chad's hand to his upper chest.

3



Carlson controls Chad's elbow and shoulder while keeping Chad's wrist locked.

4

Carlson applies the submission on Chad's wrist, moving his hips against Chad's head to increase the pressure.



## 58 Side-control to knee-on-stomach to arm bar

Unless you are fighting a beginner, you usually have to provoke your opponent into reacting to a move to get him to drop his defenses and give you an opening for a submission. Here, Eric switches from side-control to the knee-on-stomach position, provoking a reaction from Chad. As soon as Chad tries to escape from the knee-on-stomach, Eric controls his arm and quickly switches knees on Chad's stomach to apply his real goal: an arm bar.



Eric holds Chad in the 100-kilo side-control position.

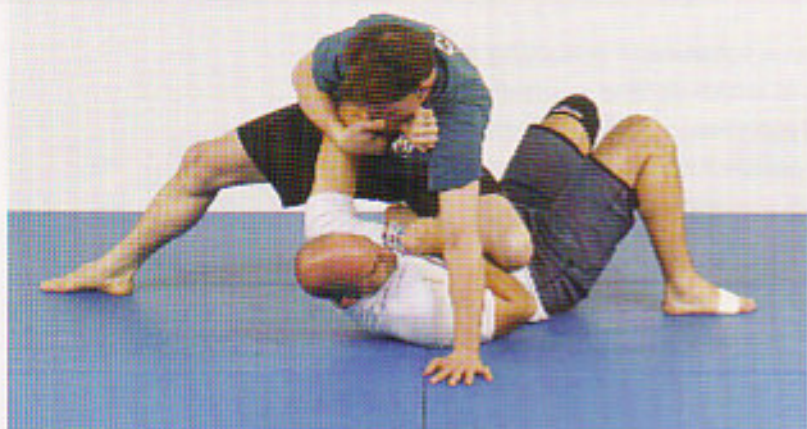


Eric establishes the knee-on-stomach position. Chad tries to escape by pushing on Eric's neck.

Eric maintains control on Chad's neck and holds Chad's left elbow.



4



In a quick motion, Eric switches his stance, maintaining control of Chad's arm.

5



Eric steps over Chad's head to set up the arm bar.

6



Eric applies the arm bar, squeezing his knees together, both hands around Chad's wrist.

## 59 Arm bar from the back

Of all the basic positions that can occur in a submission grappling match, the rear mount is probably the best one in which to find yourself. It offers a tremendous combination of control and submission options. Here, Chad sees that Eric will defend the rear naked sleeper choke and decides to control Eric's right arm to apply a straight arm bar.



Chad controls Eric from the back.



As Eric tries to escape, Chad controls his arm.

3



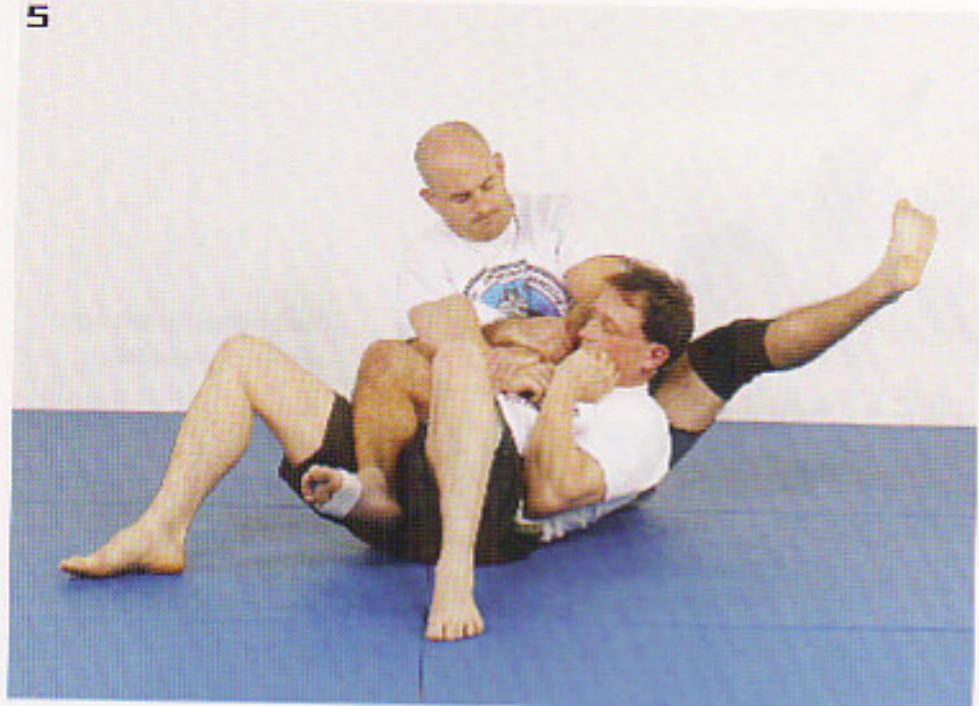
Chad brings his left arm over Eric's shoulder.

4



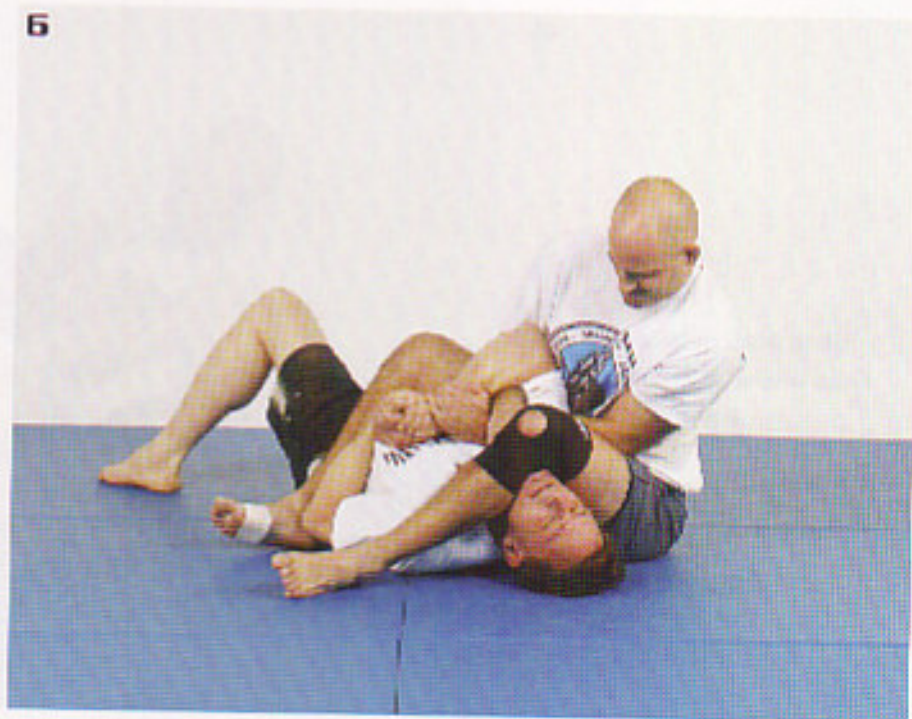
Using both of his arms, Chad pressures Eric's arm and shoulder.

5



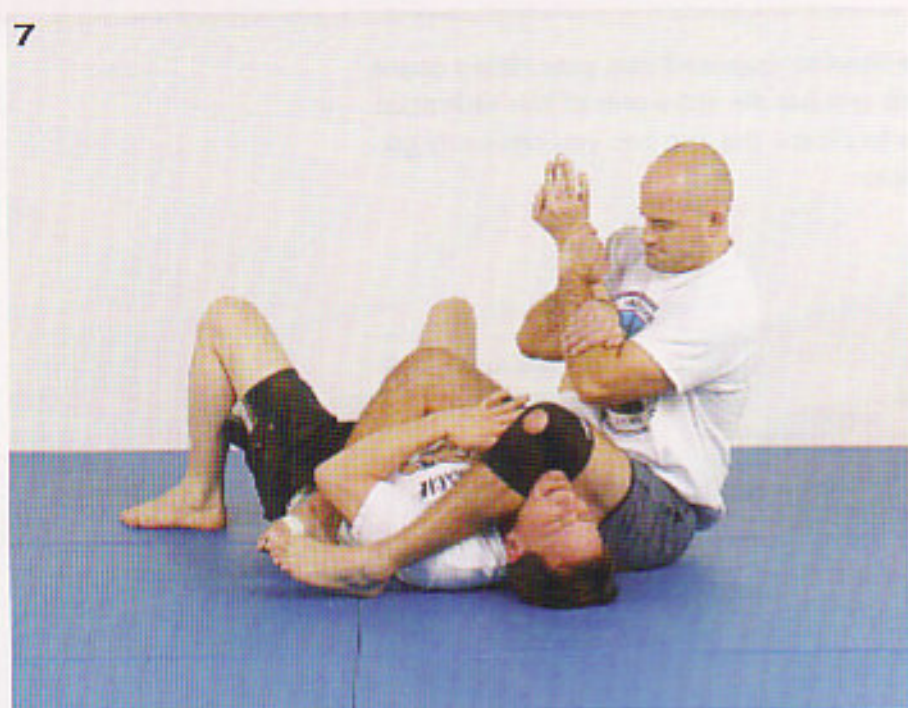
Quickly, without releasing control of Eric's arm, Chad brings his left leg over Eric's head.

6



Now on top, Chad keeps control of Eric's arm and has both legs over Eric.

7



Chad maintains top position, keeping his legs close together as he gets ready to apply the submission.

B



Chad holds Eric's wrist with both hands and stretches his hips for the arm bar.

## 60 Arm bar from the closed guard

When your opponent holds your head to open and pass your closed guard, a great option is the closed-guard arm bar. An extra plus of this technique is that, if the opponent manages to escape the arm bar, you can easily go for an omoplata or a triangle choke.

1



Chad holds Julio's neck with both hands.

2



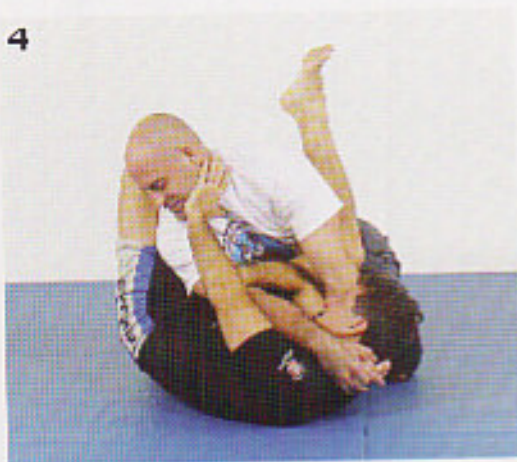
Chad starts to bend Julio's neck, trying for the neck-crank submission.

3



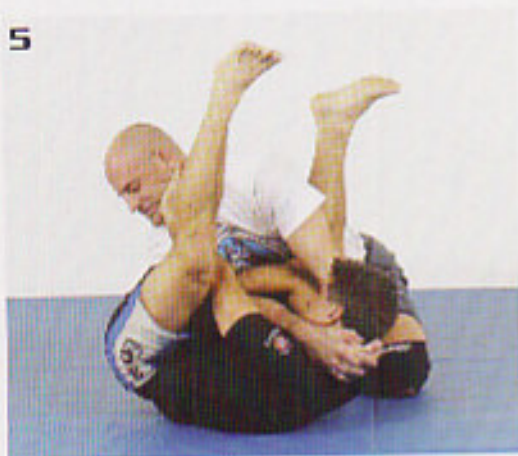
Julio grabs Chad's right wrist and elbow.

4



With his left foot pushing on Chad's right hip, Julio angles his body at the same time that he pushes Chad's armpit with his right leg.

5



Quickly, Julio swings his left leg over Chad's head.

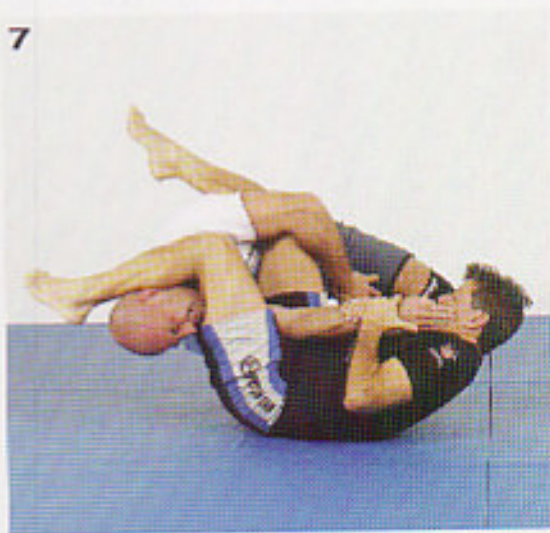
6

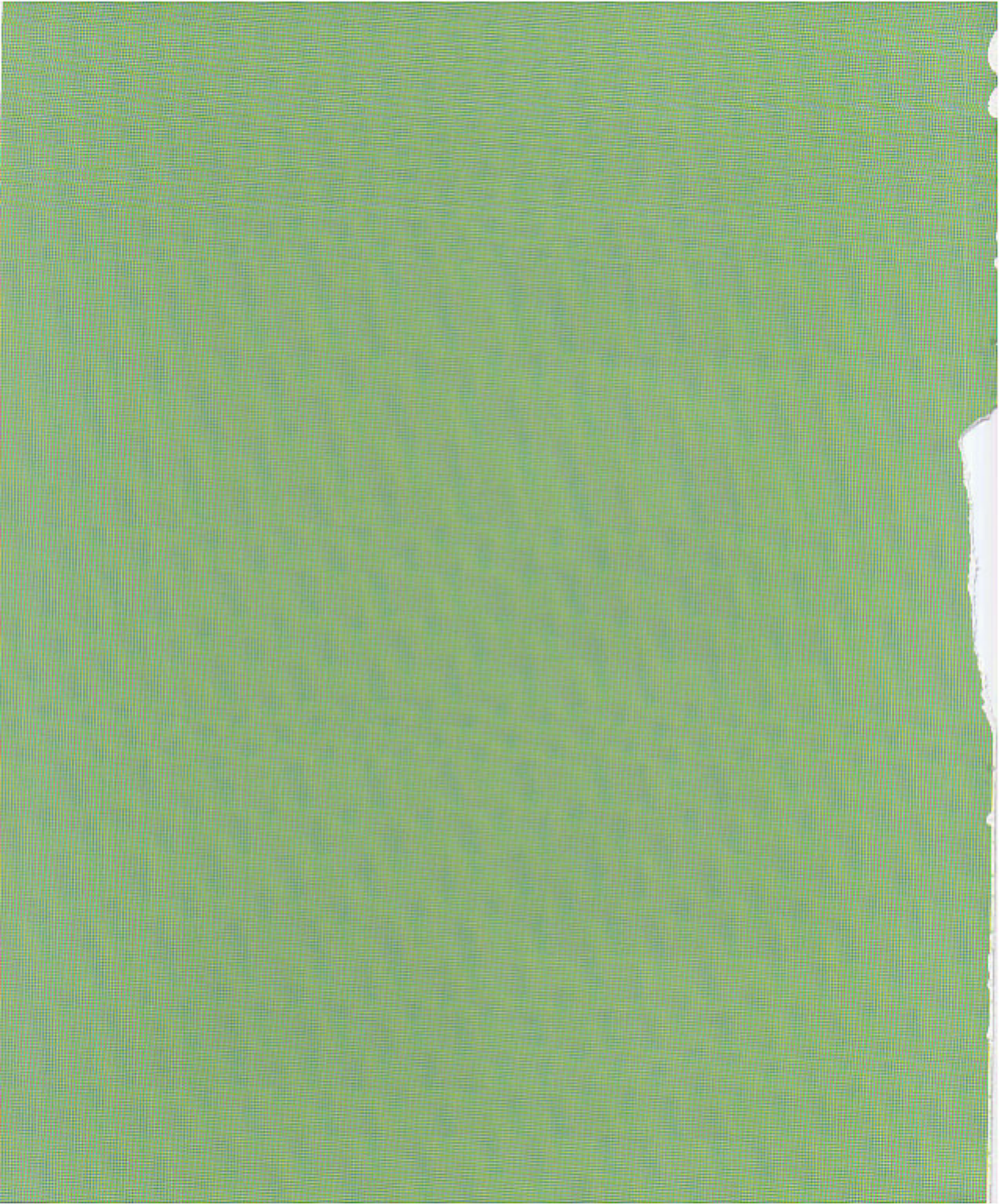


Both legs are now over Chad's left side, in position for the arm bar.

Squeezing both knees together and pushing hard with both legs, Julio applies the arm bar.

7







## **No Holds Barred / Mixed Martial Arts Techniques**

Clinch

Takedown Defenses

Guard Work

Side Control and Knee-on-Stomach Moves

# 61 Single-leg takedown from the clinch

The clinch is an intermediary phase between the free-standing phase and the ground-and-pound, or submission, phase of a match. Frequently, control of the clinch phase allows control of the outcome of the match. The clinch can be used to control a striking attacker, to set up takedowns more safely, and to defend takedown attempts. Here, the clinch is used for a single-leg takedown. As soon as Tom controls John's left leg, he can take him down using pressure on the knee along with the semicircle step technique shown here. This move takes your opponent off-balance and down to the floor, where he is open to punches or knee strikes. In this instance, Tom decides to establish side-control position.



Tom and John face each other in a fighting stance.

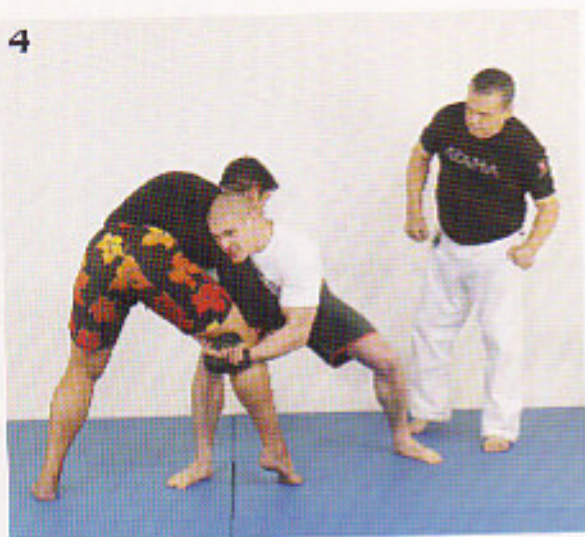


Tom closes the distance to get the clinch.

Both combatants have one arm under the other's armpit and one arm over his arm.



4



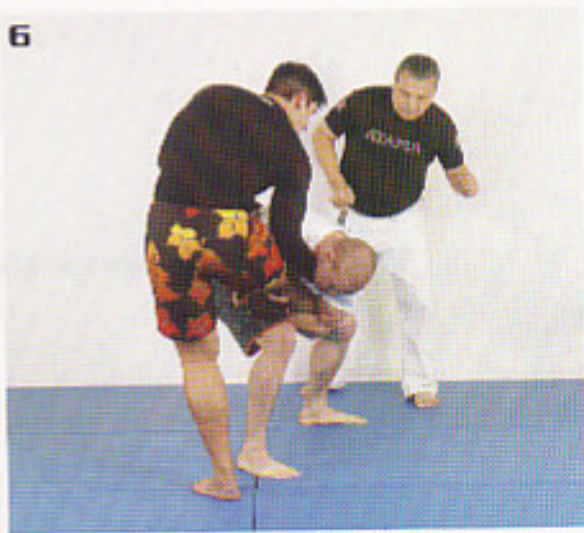
Quickly, Tom releases the arm under John's armpit and controls John's right knee.

5



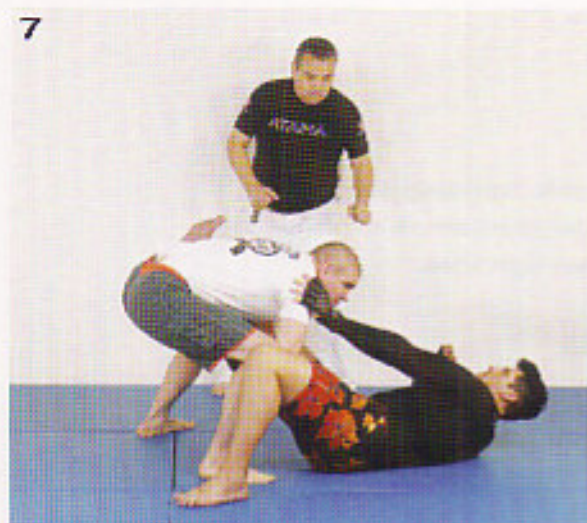
Tom stands up fast and upsets John's balance.

6



Tom changes his body elevation and drops his chest on John's knee while maintaining a good hold on John's leg.

7



Tom takes John down to the ground.

8



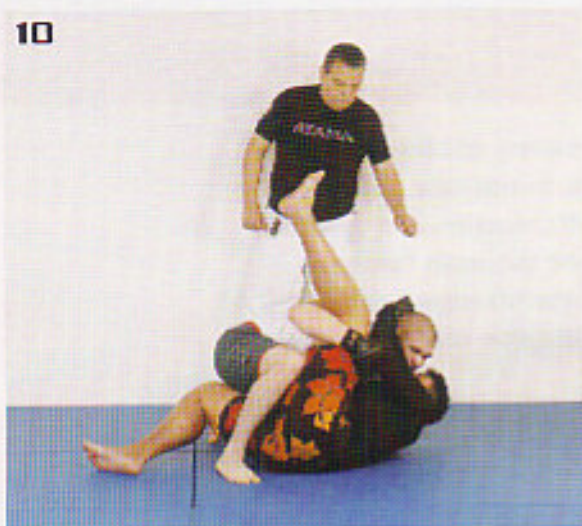
Still holding John's leg, Tom prepares to pass the guard.

9



Tom steps over John's right leg.

10



Tom holds John's leg with his right arm and John's neck with his left hand.

11

Tom passes his right leg over John's right leg.



12

After the takedown and passing the guard, Tom controls John on the ground.



## 62 Double-leg takedown from the clinch

One should train often in the clinch and should learn a variety of takedowns, because different situations require different takedowns. In this case, Julio has control of Bob's right wrist. Julio takes advantage of Bob's reaction and uses it to his benefit: Bob pulls back and Julio releases his grip as he shoots in for the double-leg takedown. Julio drops Bob on the mat after the takedown and while still controlling Bob's legs, Julio passes the guard and gains side-control.

1



Julio and Bob face each other in the fighting stance.

2

Julio closes the distance to get the clinch.



3



Julio grabs Bob's right hand and pushes down.

4



Quickly, Julio releases Bob's hand and goes for the double-leg takedown.

5



In a semicircular move, Julio steps over with his left leg and starts the double-leg takedown.

6



After the takedown is complete, Julio uses his head to keep Bob on the ground. By keeping his right leg against Bob's shin, he avoids Bob's half-guard.

7



Julio avoids Bob's guard, throwing his left leg over to his right side.

8



After the takedown and passing the guard, Julio controls Bob on the ground.

## 63 Knee Strike

In today's mixed martial arts matches an ever increasing number of victories are being credited to various clinch-and-knee-strike combinations. Here, Tom uses a variation of the neck clinch. As soon as Tom has his arms inside John's arms, locked around the neck and head, he brings his knee back and pulls John's head down into the knee strike for extra power. As soon as the knee strike lands, remember to maintain your grip around the neck and head and repeat the process if necessary.

1



Tom and John face each other in the fighting stance.

2



Tom holds John's head, while John hooks Tom's left armpit with his right arm.

3



Quickly, Tom lifts his left arm to escape the hook.

4



Bringing his left elbow down, Tom holds John's head with both hands.

5



Tom strikes John with his right knee.

## 64 Knee-strike defense followed by uppercut

The knee strike is a devastating weapon that can be employed in a vast number of situations. For that reason, it is just as important to know how to defend it as it is to know how to attack with it. Here, we see a knee-strike defense that naturally transitions to an uppercut. John can't escape the neck clinch, but he defends the knee strike and takes advantage of the fact that Tom has both arms around his neck, countering with an uppercut punch. This is a good example of saving precious milliseconds by choosing an attack that follows easily from your defense, rather than wasting time changing position for a different attack.



Tom holds John's head in preparation for a knee strike.



Tom brings his right leg back for additional power on the strike.

3



John crosses his arms in an X and blocks the knee strike.

4



John keeps one arm low in case Tom tries the knee strike again and prepares an uppercut.

5



Taking advantage of the fact that Tom is still holding his head, John hits the uppercut.

## 65 Single-leg takedown and side-control from the clinch

In this variation of the single-leg takedown from the clinch, Julio has solid control of Bob's right wrist. Taking advantage of this control, Julio releases the wrist, maintaining control of Bob's ankle and left leg, and completes the takedown by driving his right shoulder forward and down as he pulls up on Bob's left ankle. By controlling the leg and ankle, Julio forces Bob's back to remain on the mat until Julio can attain side-control.

1



Julio and Bob face each other in the fighting stance.

2

Julio closes the distance to get the clinch.



3



Julio grabs and pushes down Bob's right hand.

4



Quickly, Julio releases Bob's hand and goes for single-leg control.

5

Julio pushes Bob with his head while holding Bob's leg.



6



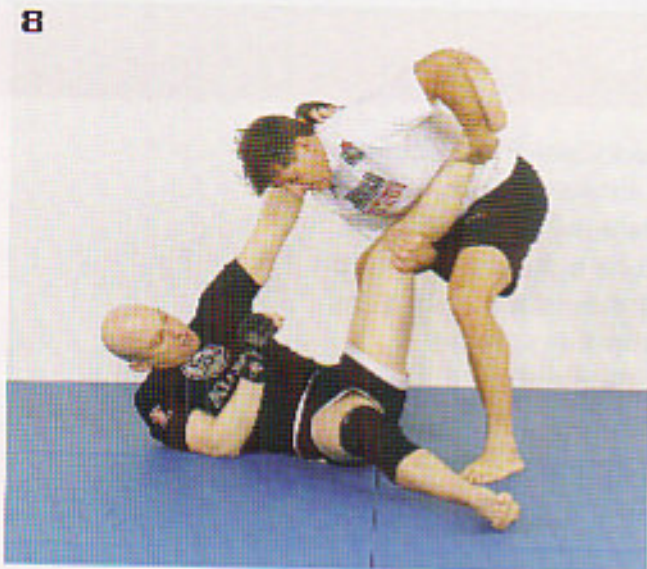
To help bring his leg down,  
Julio grabs Bob's heel.

7

Julio drops his upper body in  
preparation for the takedown.



8



After the takedown, Julio maintains his hold on Bob's leg.

9



Julio keeps his left knee under Bob's left leg and holds Bob's head at the same time that he lowers his body.

10

Julio establishes side-control.



## 66 Takedown from the guillotine

Attempting a takedown exposes you to various attacks, which you must be ready to defend for the takedown to be successful. In this variation of the single-leg takedown from the clinch, Tom tries to defend the takedown by applying a guillotine choke. Bob steps forward, lifts his head and back up to avoid a tight choke, and defends the standing guillotine attack. From there, Bob does a single-leg takedown and establishes across-side position.



Bob and Tom face each other in the fighting stance.



Bob closes the distance and grabs Tom's leg to attempt a single-leg takedown.

3



Tom tries to escape the hold.

4



Tom was unable to release his leg, but he pushes on Bob's head to set up a guillotine.

5

Bob feels the pressure on his neck and steps forward.



6

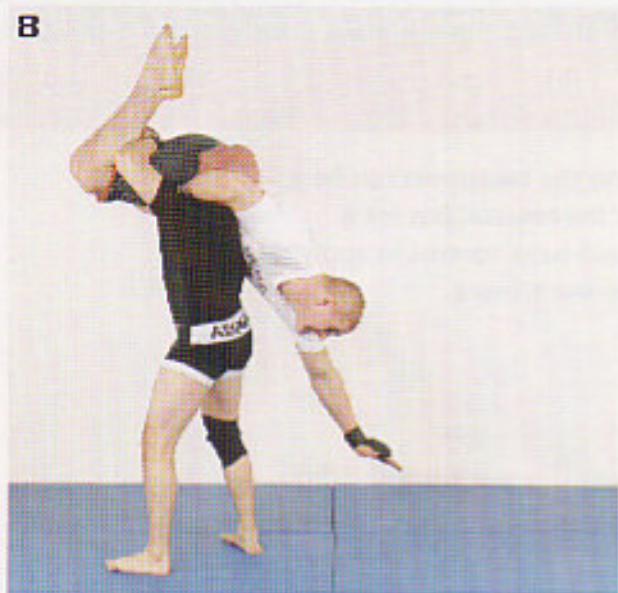


Bob keeps moving forward  
to protect his neck.

7



Bob lifts Tom all the way up.

**B**

Bob continues the motion for a takedown and Tom has to release the guillotine.

**9**

Pressing his head against Tom's hips, Bob executes the takedown.

**10**

After the takedown is complete, Bob achieves side-control over Tom.

## 67 Kimura to defend a takedown

Considering the speed of mixed martial arts, defending the takedown can be a difficult task. One great strategy is to go not only for the reversal but for a submission as well. Here, Bob decides to go for arm-and-wrist control to apply a reversal sweep. After gaining top control, he applies the Kimura.

1



Bob and Tom face each other in the fighting stance.

2



Tom goes for the takedown, but Bob defends the takedown and holds Tom's right wrist.

3



Bob prepares a Kimura lock.

4



Bob holds his own wrist to control Tom's arm.

5

Bob slides his right leg between Tom's legs.



6



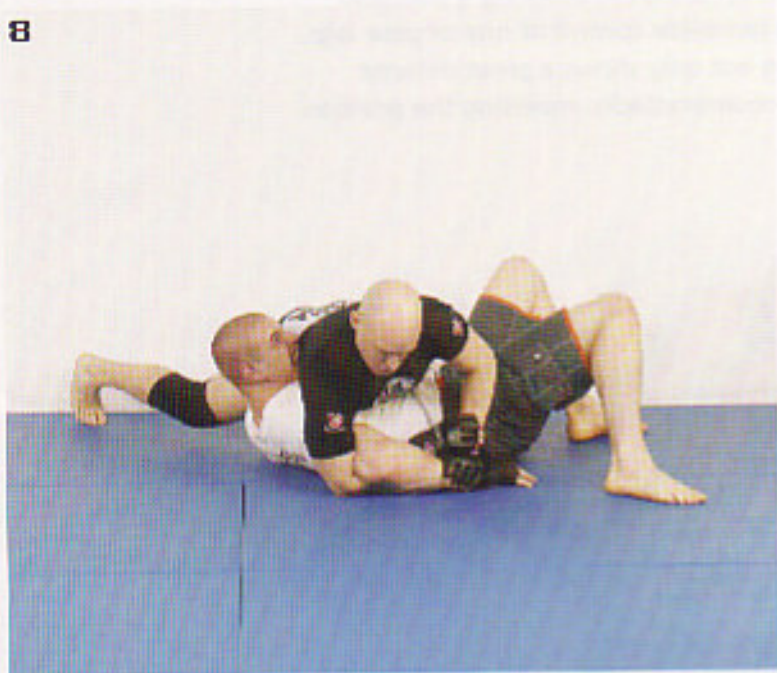
Bob lies on the ground.  
The pressure on the arm  
forces Tom to follow him.

7

As soon as Tom hits the floor, Bob  
starts to move in his direction.



8



Without releasing the hold on Tom's arm, Bob moves to the top side-control position.

9

Bob passes his right leg over Tom's head and applies the Kimura.



## 68 Single-leg-takedown defense with mount

A crucial skill in the standing phase of a match is that of blocking a shot and sprawling. But when your opponent has a complete control of one of your legs, you are in a vulnerable position. Here, Tom not only shows a great defense against the single-leg takedown, but also counterattacks, reversing the position and successfully gaining top control.



Tom and John face each other in the fighting stance.



John grabs Tom's right leg for a single-leg takedown.

3



Tom pushes John's head to create space between them.

4



Tom wraps his right hand around John's arm and hooks his right leg behind John's right knee.

5

Tom holds his own knee with his right hand and lifts John's left leg.



6



Lifting John's left leg all the way up, Tom takes John down.

7

As soon as they hit the floor, Tom starts to move against John.



8

Placing his knee over John's stomach, Tom swings his left leg over John's upper body.



9



Tom gains the mount.

10

Moving his knees forward,  
Tom controls John and  
prepares to punch him.



11

Tom delivers the punishment.



## 69 Single-leg-takedown defense with knee bar

In this variation of the previous position, we see another defense followed by an attack. This time, Tom defends the single-leg takedown and, when both fighters go down, Tom has complete control of John's left leg. Tom's first concern is to defend the takedown by hooking his leg behind John's right knee. After that, Tom goes for the knee-bar submission.

1



Tom and John face each other in the fighting stance.

2



Tom tries to punch, but John goes for the single-leg takedown.

3



Tom wraps his right hand around John's arm and hooks his right leg behind John's right knee.

4



Tom holds his own knee with his right hand and grabs behind John's left leg.

5



Lifting John's left leg all the way up, Tom tries to take John down.

6



After the takedown,  
Tom holds John's left leg.

7

Tom releases John's arm and  
grabs John's left foot.



8



Tom controls John's left leg,  
squeezing it against his upper body.

9

Squeezing both knees together  
to control John's leg and  
stretching his hips forward,  
Tom applies the knee bar.



## 70 Punching from the closed guard

The man on the bottom can use his legs and hips to control the man inside the guard to a surprising degree. Here, Carlson shows that as long as you hold an opponent in the guard, you not only have an effective means of defending yourself from strikes, but at the same time you are able to strike and submit your opponent.



Tom is inside Carlson's closed guard and Carlson controls both of Tom's hands.



Tom tries to open Carlson's guard and punch, so Carlson pushes on Tom's right shoulder.

Quickly, Carlson opens his closed guard and slides his left knee between Tom's right biceps and side.



4



As soon as Carlson controls Tom's right biceps with his knee, Carlson moves his hips to the opposite side.

5



Carlson stretches his body and prepares to strike while still controlling Tom.

6



Carlson throws a left hook to the side of Tom's face.

## 71 Foot strike from the closed guard

In the previous technique, Carlson demonstrated how to control and punch an opponent in the guard. In fact, one can even win a fight from the guard position. Here, Carlson uses a heel kick to the jaw of his opponent to end a fight.

1



Carlson controls both of John's hands in his closed guard.

2



Carlson opens his guard and moves his body sideways, maintaining control of John's hands.

3



Without releasing the grip, Carlson puts his right foot over John's left hip.

4



Carlson raises his body using his right foot as a point of balance and prepares the foot strike.

5

Carlson strikes John with his left foot.



## 72 Heel strike from the closed guard

This is another guard situation showing that the man on the bottom can use his legs and hips to effectively control the man inside the guard. Here, Carlson shows that if you find yourself in the bottom position, the guard is the place to be. Creating the space required to control his opponent allows Carlson to strike a powerful heel kick to the side of the jaw.



Carlson controls Bob in the closed guard.

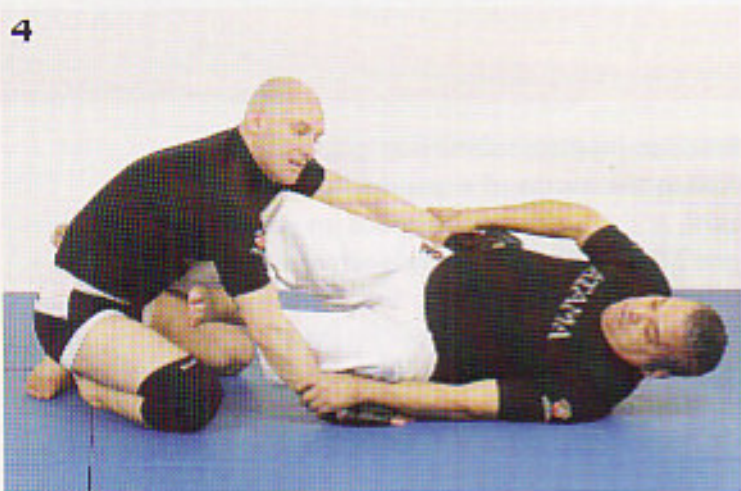


Quickly, Carlson releases the hold on Bob's head and arm.

Simultaneously, Carlson pushes Bob and brings his right leg between them.



4



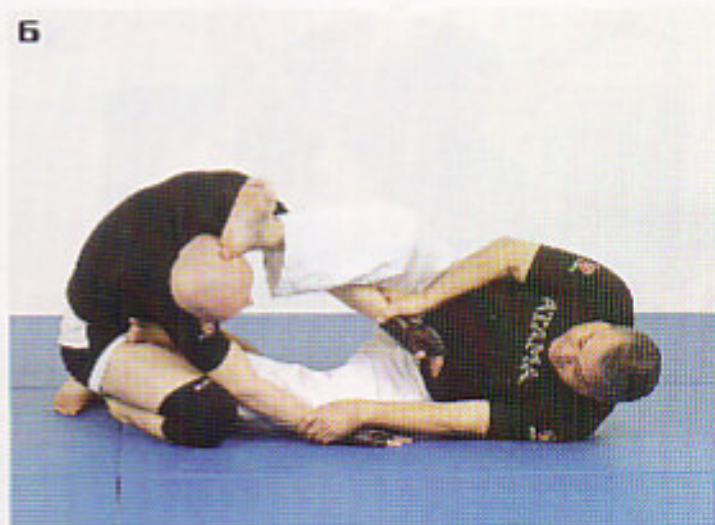
Carlson controls Bob's hands.

5



Carlson lifts his right foot high.

6



Carlson strikes Bob on the side of the head.

## 73 Omoplata from the closed guard

One of the most talked-about positions in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, submission grappling, and mixed martial arts is the guard. Very often in the course of a ground fight your opponent will attempt to pass your guard, and your success depends on your reaction to this. Striking from the guard is one MMA solution, but instead consider an omoplata attack on your opponent's shoulders, using your legs to control and submit him. The technique is very effective when combined with other jiu-jitsu submission techniques, such as the triangle choke or the Kimura lock, or with striking techniques such as the heel kick.

1



Julio controls Bob inside his closed guard. Julio hooks both of Bob's arms.

2



Julio pushes Bob's biceps with his left knee and swings his right leg over Bob's head.

3



4



Julio places his right leg over Bob's shoulder.

5



Using his left hand for support, Julio starts to sit up.

6

Julio controls Bob's left elbow with his left hand and Bob's right shoulder with his right hand.



Pressing his body against Bob's back, Julio applies the omoplata.

7



## 74 Triangle choke from the closed guard

The triangle choke is one of the most popular and successful submissions from the guard position when your opponent is on his knees. With your opponent in your closed guard, grab both of his wrists, and in one strong and fast motion push one wrist back toward his chest. This quick motion will allow you to throw your leg over his trapped arm and around his neck. Lock your legs around his head in the stable triangle pattern shown here. Squeeze your knees together and maintain the hold on your opponent's head for the strangle.

1



Julio controls Bob's hands inside his closed guard.

2

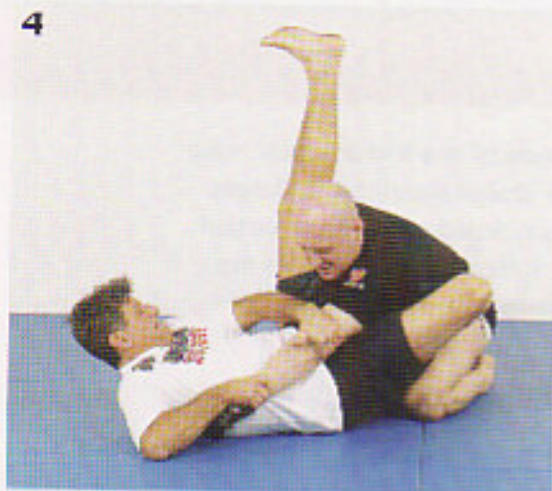


Julio lifts his hips up, pushes Bob's right hand forward, and swings his leg over Bob's head.

3



4



Julio pulls Bob's left arm in his direction.

5



To bring Bob's head down, Julio crosses his left leg over Bob's neck.

To prevent Bob from lifting his head to counter the triangle choke, Julio holds his own shin.

6



Julio locks the triangle choke. Julio will finish the move by pulling Bob's head down and lifting his hips.

7



# 75 Kimura from the closed guard

Few submissions can be applied with the ease and speed of the Kimura lock—one of the best attacks to use on an opponent inside your closed guard on his knees. As soon as your opponent extends an arm outside your closed guard to maintain his posture or balance, he becomes vulnerable to the Kimura. Placing your knee over the shoulder of the arm you are attacking makes escape from the Kimura very difficult.



Tom tries to rest inside John's guard with his head down, while John controls Tom's hands.



Quickly, John opens his guard, releases Tom's right hand, and moves his body up and sideways.

Placing his left foot on the floor and against Tom's hips, John fakes a reversal sweep.



4



John holds his right wrist with his left hand to lock the Kimura.

5



John places his right leg over Tom's back to prevent an escape.

6

Sliding his hips sideways to increase the leverage, John submits Tom.



## 76 Punching inside the closed guard

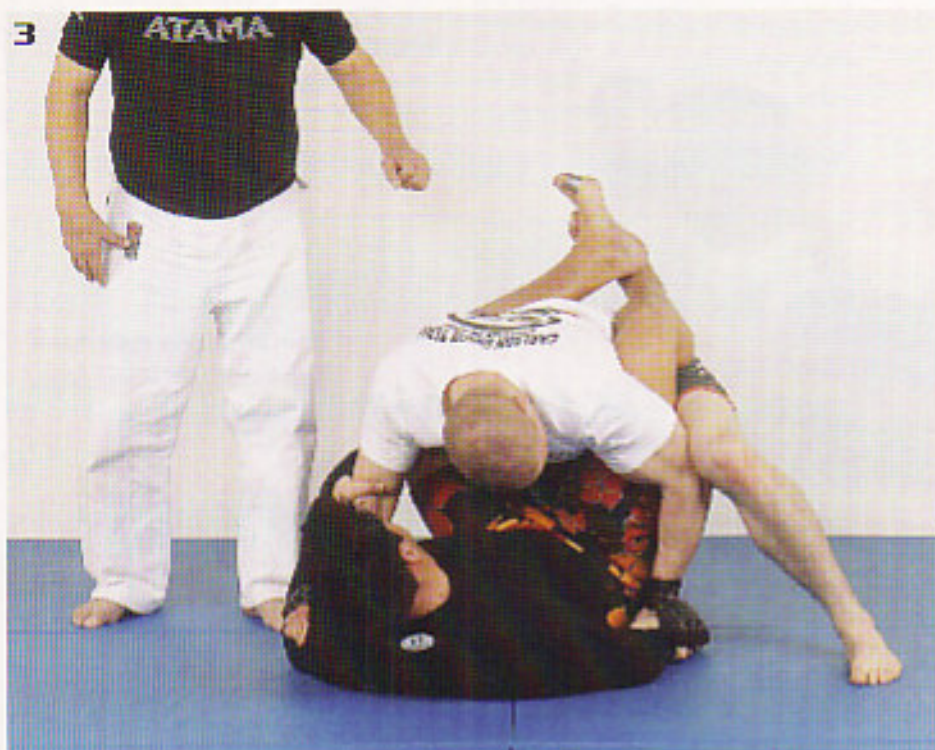
When fighting from the top and inside the closed guard, some fighters prefer not to risk trying to pass the closed guard, and instead opt to strike the opponent without exposing themselves to submission holds or sweeps. To pull this off, you have to keep a solid base. You also have to control your opponent to be able to hit him successfully inside the closed guard. The arm control performed in this sequence shows that a fighter needs a good strategy to be able to dominate his opponent. Of course, as soon as you throw a few punches, passing the closed guard becomes a much easier task.



With his head down, Tom controls John's arms to avoid any strikes.

When John pushes Tom's shoulder, Tom lifts his upper body and grabs John's wrist.





Tom stands on both legs and pushes John's wrist down.



Without releasing the hold on John's hand, Tom drops his head forward beside John's head.

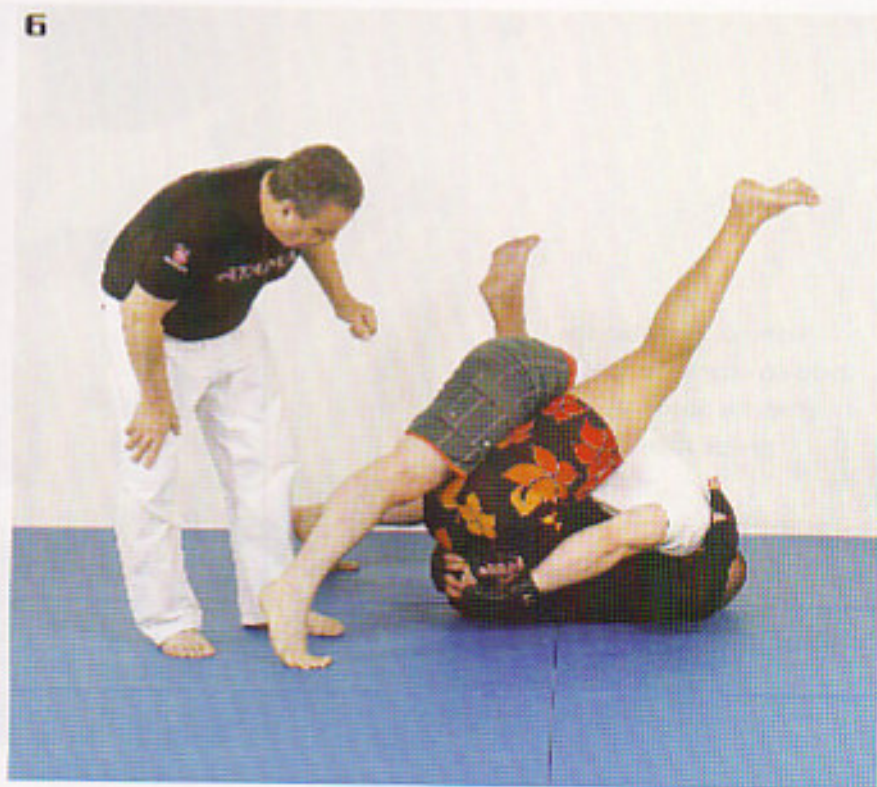
5



Tom brings his right hand behind John's lower back.

6

Tom switches the hold on John's hand from his left hand to his right hand.



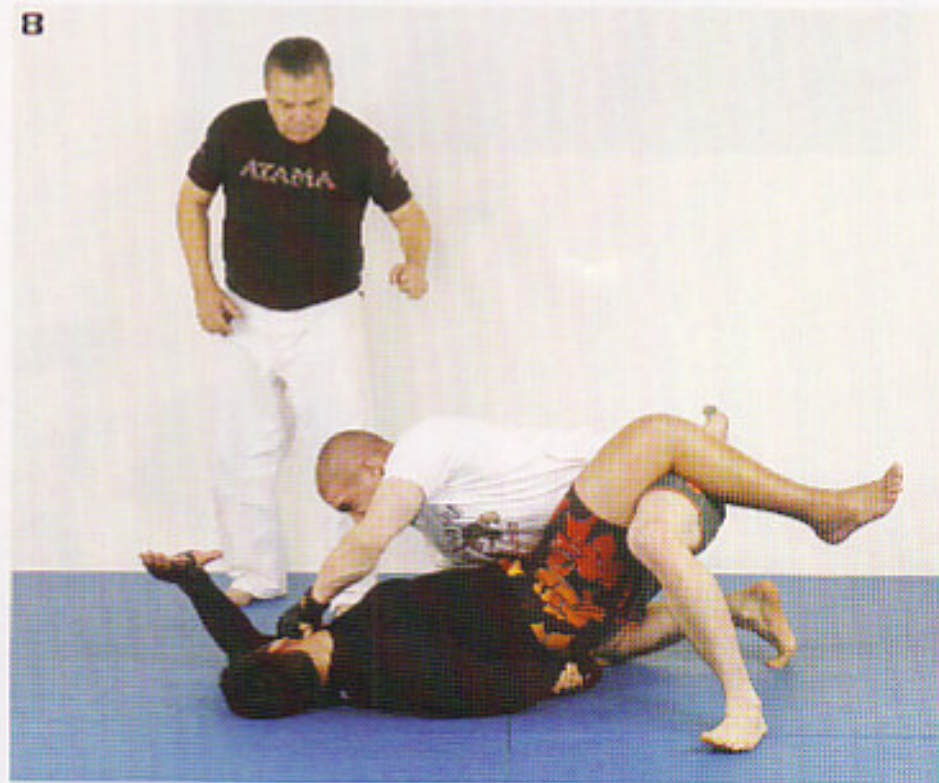
7



As soon as Tom has a good hold on John's hand, he lifts his upper body to throw a punch.

8

Taking advantage of the fact that John can't protect his face, Tom punches the side of John's face.



## 77 Transitioning from the 100-kilo hold to side-control

Arm submissions are more difficult in mixed martial arts than in submission grappling or Brazilian jiu-jitsu, because the speed of the matches and the slippery quality of sweaty skin usually allows an opponent to slide his elbow out of a grip. For that reason, many practitioners prefer to rely on strikes to end a match. Here, we see a transition from the 100-kilo hold to the side-control position. If done properly, this takes you to a position where you can strike your opponent easily.

1



Bob has Tom in a 100-kilo hold.

2



Bob decides to change his hold.

3



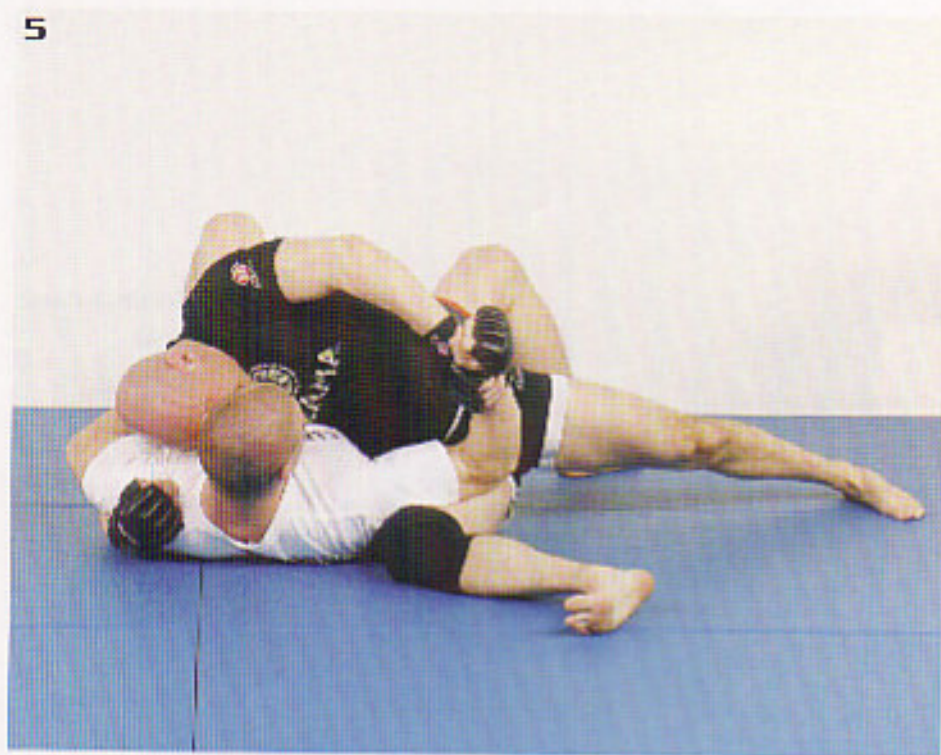
Bob controls Tom in a classic kesa gatame hold.

4

Tom tries to release his right arm from the hold. Note that Bob does not try to prevent this.



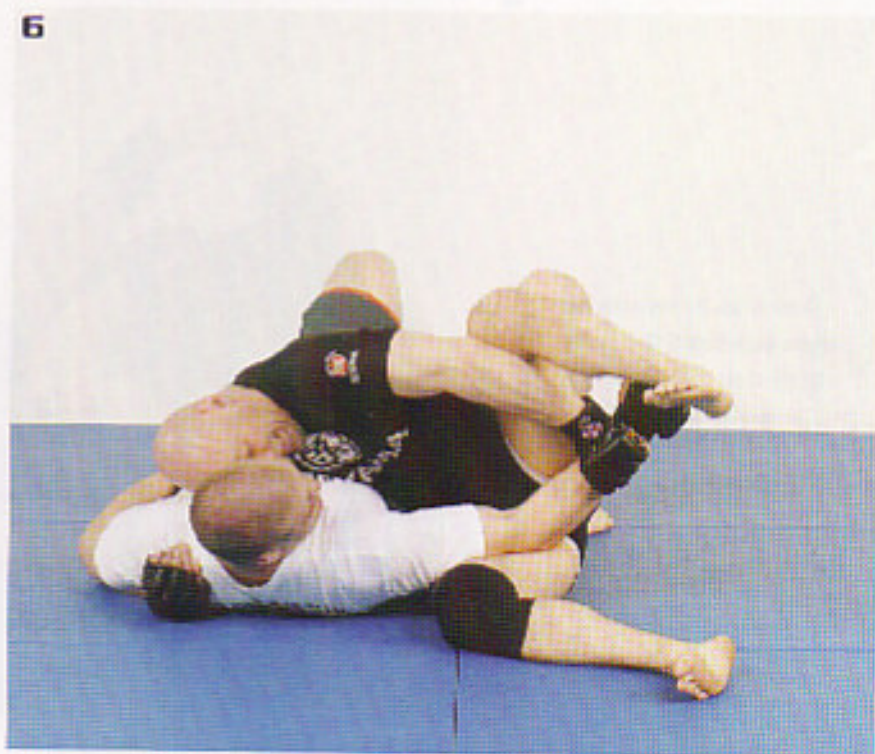
5



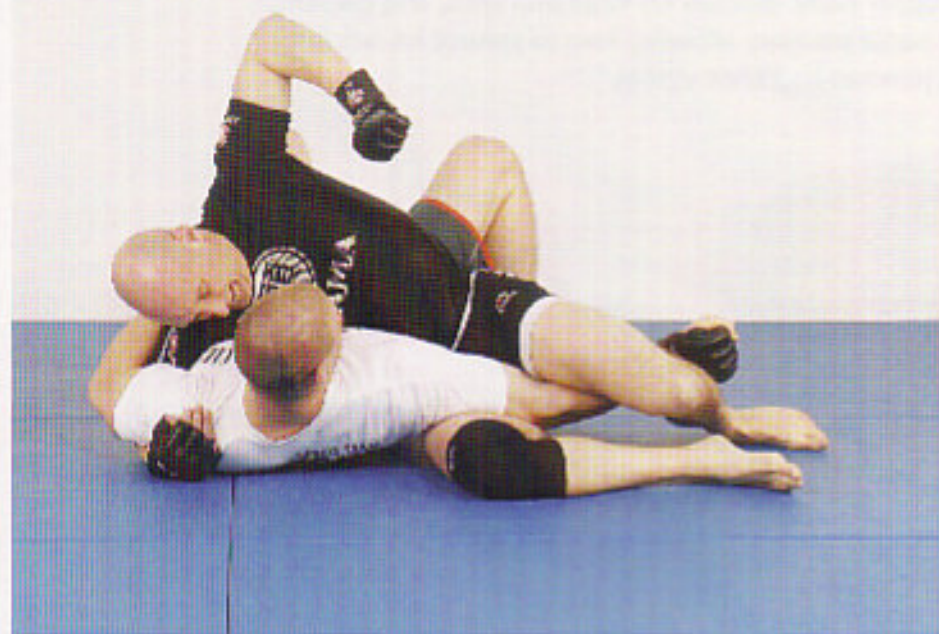
Bob pushes on Tom's wrist, taking advantage of the fact that Tom is trying to free his arm.

6

Bob passes his left leg over Tom's right arm.



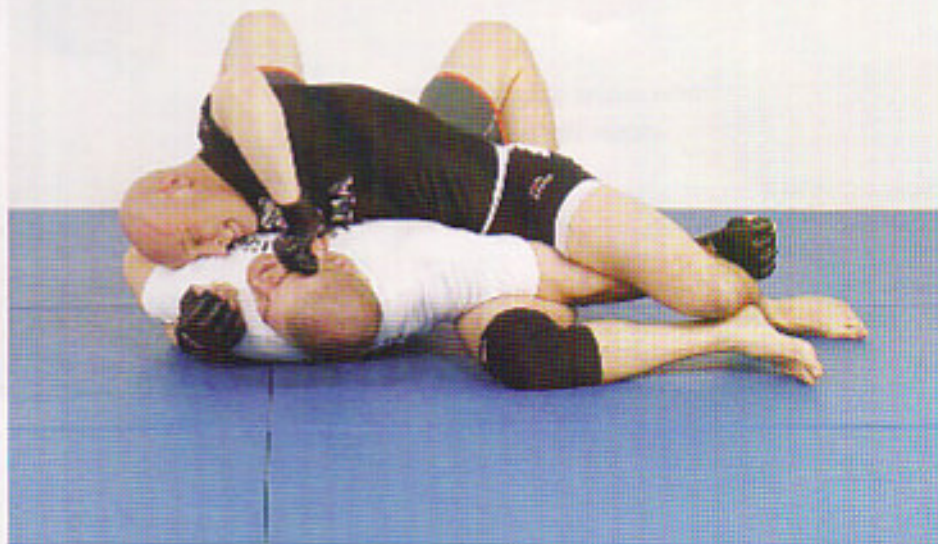
7



As soon as Tom's right arm is under control, Bob prepares the punch.

8

Bob throws the punch to the side of Tom's head.



## 78 Striking after a side-control escape

Anytime you are on top of your opponent or lying across his side there are many opportunities for striking and submissions. Here, John tries to escape to knee control, but Tom circles around John's upper body, controls his head and arms, and prevents the escape. John is now in the turtle position, allowing Tom to control his left arm and wrist and attack him with punches and knee strikes.



Tom has side-control on John.



John moves toward Tom to escape the side-control.

3



John tries to grab Tom's right leg for a single-leg takedown.

4



Tom circles John and grabs both of John's triceps.

5



To prevent John from standing up, Tom controls John's left arm and puts his weight on John's back.

6



As John tries to stand up, Tom gets ready to punch John.

7

Taking advantage of the fact that John can't protect his face, Tom punches John.



8



Tom decides to follow up with a knee strike. He prepares by holding John's head.

9



Tom strikes John with his right knee.

## 79 Punching from knee-on-stomach

Because the knee-on-stomach position puts great pressure on your opponent, while affording you considerable ease of movement, it creates many opportunities for strikes and submissions. Note how John places his right hand on the mat for two reasons: for balance when transitioning from side-control, and to control Tom's hips and prevent an escape.

1



John has side-control on Tom.

2

John maintains the hold on Tom's head but releases Tom's left leg.



3



Using his right hand and left leg as a base, John places the knee-on-stomach.

4



John maintains control of Tom's head so he has a still target.

5

John delivers the punch.



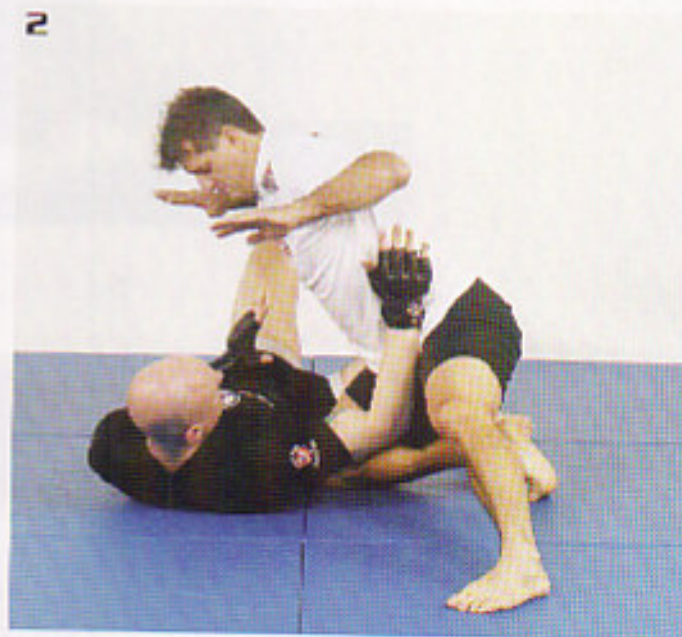
## 80 Kicking from knee-on-stomach

The side-control position is great for transitioning to other positions. Here, we see the transition from side-control to knee-on-stomach. Because the knee-on-stomach position is hard to escape from without exposing yourself to strikes, locks, or chokes, it is an excellent position for controlling and attacking an opponent.



Julio has side-control on Bob, but Bob attempts to escape by pushing Julio's left hip.

Quickly, Julio releases the side-control and pushes down on Bob's chest.



3



Julio places the knee-on-stomach, but Bob pushes hard on his knee and hips.

4



Julio decides to stand. As he does so, he grabs Bob's right hand to get a clear target to strike.

Julio delivers the punishment.

5



## Notes

Research has shown that reading is a  
very important part of learning and  
growth.



Reading is a great way to learn and  
grow. It is also a great way to relax  
and enjoy your time.



Reading is a great way to learn and  
grow. It is also a great way to relax  
and enjoy your time.

Reading is a great way to learn and grow. It is also a great way to relax and enjoy your time.

**For Experts Only** reveals at last the moves that Carlson Gracie has taught to such stars as Vitor Belfort, Amauri Bitteti, Murilo Bustamante, Wallid Ismael, Mario Sperry, Kevin Costner, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Mickey Rourke. Covering sports jiu-jitsu, submission grappling, and no-holds-barred techniques, *For Experts Only* provides a complete game of guards, sweeps, and submissions. Students will find that Carlson's famously aggressive techniques will expand their game in all directions, and advanced practitioners will learn the tips and secrets that make the difference between competence and greatness.

**Carlson Gracie** is revered as one of the grand masters of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, responsible for taking a technical sport and making it more physical, more demanding, and more dangerous. Many of the moves used in jiu-jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts competitions today bear Carlson's signature, and many of today's champions honed their games under his tutelage. Undefeated in nineteen professional fights, he now lives in Chicago, where he continues to train future champions. **Julio Fernandez**, a five-time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Featherweight Champion, is a fourth-degree black belt and president of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu United States Association. He has trained many champions at his Vermont academy.



**Invisible Cities Press**  
**Montpelier, Vermont**

Cover design by Peter Holm, Sterling Hill Productions  
Cover photograph by John Goodman  
Distributed by Independent Publishers Group

